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FILE PHOTO
Reverend Albert Mosley will replace Sharon Kugler as University chaplain this semester.

Reverend Mosley named new chaplain

By CONOR FOLEY
Staff Writer

Reverend Albert Mosley, a United Methodist minister, is primed to replace Sharon Kugler, a lay Catholic who served for 14 years as Hopkins Chaplain before leaving for Yale in 2007.

Mosley will serve part time until July 1.

The dean of student life, Susan Boswell, lauded Kugler for building the chaplaincy into a vibrant multi-faith community and looked forward to Mosley building on this model.

"I think a university chaplain needs to be open and accepting of all faith traditions and be willing to engage in broad ranging religious discussion," Boswell wrote in an email.

"I think that many people are drawn to university chaplaincies for these reasons and Rev. Mosley is no exception."

What is most appealing to Mosley about taking over the chaplaincy at

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Hopkins's endowment drops amid recession

By LAUREN BROWN
Staff Writer

Hopkins endowment returns, which dropped for the 2008 fiscal year, were consistent with losses experienced by peer institutions, according to Dennis O'Shea, spokesman for the university.

Hopkins's endowment totaled \$2.3 billion and ranked 24 on a list of endowment sizes for American universities in 2006. It has since dropped \$0.2 billion, according to O'Shea.

On average, universities have reported 10 to 20 percent losses by the end of the 2008 fiscal year, explained O'Shea.

"The University's investment performance for the first six months of fiscal year 2009 [July 1 to Dec. 31, 2008] was about minus 20 percent," O'Shea said. "At the end of that period, on Dec. 31, the endowment stood at about \$2.1 billion."

But the decline in investment returns did not include the value of the endowment itself, according to O'Shea.

"That [loss] is investment performance only; that does not mean that the endowment's total market value declined by 20 percent during that period," he said.

O'Shea declined to speak more specifically about the type of investments the Hopkins endowment had.

"It is possible for large pools of money, like a university endowment, to be more diversified than your investments or mine," he said.

As demonstrated by Harvard's high-profile announcement that it lost \$8 billion dollars — about 20 percent of a previously \$37 billion endowment — due to the credit crunch and ensuing economic downturn, universities across

the country are facing comparable significant endowment return losses.

Part of the reason Hopkins has avoided such a massive loss, according to O'Shea, is because the Hopkins fixed income portfolio contains no credit exposure, avoiding the hard-hit mortgage-backed securities.

Overall trends in American universities point to drops in endowment investment returns as a result of falling stocks and investments, and have forced schools to cut back on spending, or in some cases, to cut back on financial aid grants to admitted and enrolled students.

Even the most cautious universities have suffered — as the value of assets and investments have fallen, schools are left with few places to turn.

"With all that's going on in the economy it's not just the endowment we need to worry about. In this economic environment, people are less likely, and less able to donate money," said Frederick Puddester, Senior Associate Dean for Finance and Administration of the Krieger School at Hopkins.

"We will need to be even more sensitive than ever to the possibility that the financial circumstances of our students and their families will change during the course of their time at Hopkins, putting

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And it's...good!



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Sophomore forward Lyndsay Burton makes one of many baskets in a winning game against Washington College.

Hopkins welcomes new fraternity

By TARA BRAILEY
Staff Writer

On Monday, the Inter-Fraternity Council approved Phi Delta Theta's request to be recognized as a Hopkins fraternity on Feb. 13.

Sophomore Justin Eric Shen began working toward "colonizing" this fraternity when he was a freshman, after seeing an advertisement for a fraternity looking to expand to Hopkins. The introduction of a new fraternity or sorority must be student-initiated, and so Shen took charge of the initiative.

"Justin researched and started talking to others about the idea. Student Activities

will support that. We won't invite an organization on campus to recruit," Coordinator of Greek Life Rob Turnier said.

Phi Delta Theta (PDT) is currently a recognized student organization and began recruitment in early December of last year. There are currently 31 founding fathers, but the group hopes

that they can reach their recruitment goal of 40 to 50

members by the end of the

spring semester. There are

several prospective members

that may be offered bids, and

BRITNI CROCKER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Jimmy Corines, Ehsan Dowlati and Wen Lee are three of Phi Delta Theta's founding fathers.

after formal recruitment, the number of members should increase.

A meeting on Monday enabled the fraternity, now with the support of the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC), to move toward becoming a chapter.

It will become a colony

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Knowledge for the World surpasses goal

By POOJA SHAH
Staff Writer

The Johns Hopkins Knowledge for the World fundraising campaign ended Dec. 31 with a total of \$3.741 billion committed to the University from over 250,000 donors.

The conclusion of the eight-year long campaign coincided with the retirement of William R. Brody who served as President of the University during the campaign.

The campaign began in 2000 with the purpose of raising funds that would allow the Hopkins students and faculty to tackle issues of the world. It

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Fire in McCoy reveals issues with alarm inefficiency

By YOUNG-HEE KIM
Staff Writer

Katie Evans, a sophomore public health major, was sitting in her bed watching TV in McCoy's suite 102 when her suitemate urgently called out her name.

When she opened the door, she saw that the common kitchen area and hallway were flooded. There was a faint smell of smoke in the air.

The audible alarm started ringing at approximately 4:45 p.m., 45 minutes after Evans reportedly saw the smoke in her hall, on Wednesday, Jan. 21. The sprinklers went off as soon as heat and smoke were detected and extinguished the fire.

The delay in the audible fire



BRITNI CROCKER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Security guards gathered outside McCoy after the fires last week to ensure safety.

alarm system was due to a malfunction in a system microchip. The Housing Office, the Campus Safety and Security and the Baltimore City Fire Department could not give any explanations as to why the audible alarm went off later.

Evans was confused when she was confronted with a sprinkler system downpour.

"I went outside and literally saw a waterfall falling from the ceiling," Evans said. "I could smell smoke, but I did not know if it was coming from the inside or the outside. People assumed there was a

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SHIP hopes to replace the security vans with hybrid vehicles at some point in the near future.

Vision 2020 supports tenure for female faculty

By TRANG DIEM VU
Staff Writer

Over the past five years, the number of women in the Johns Hopkins Krieger School of Arts and Sciences (KSAS) and Whiting School of Engineering (WSE) tenured and tenure-track faculty has increased dramatically.

According to data released by the respective schools, the percentage of females has grown by 51.56%. However, women currently only make up about a quarter of tenured and tenure-track faculty.

Many departments are still mostly composed of males teachers, including Materials Engineering, Classics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Psychological and Brain Sciences and Computer Sciences. Some departments have seen no increase in number of women in tenured/tenure-track faculty in the past five years.

At other universities with available data, women make up about a third of tenured/tenure-track faculty. University of Massachusetts Amherst, Brown University, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Virginia all have percentages in the upper 30s, though Harvard lags behind with only about a fifth of tenured/tenure-track faculty composed of women.

However, among Brown, Har-

vard, UMass Amherst, UPitt, and UVA, the growth at Hopkins in number of women in tenured faculty in the past five years is, by far the highest. Brown, the runner-up, comes the closest at only around 30 percent.

In 2006, Hopkins University Committee on the Status of Women created the Vision 2020 report on the issue of equal gender representation.

"We [created] Vision 2020 to deal with the issues as they relate to women extensively," Vice Dean of Institutional Equality Ray Gillian said.

Hopkins announced the goal of reaching 50:50 male and female faculty members by the year 2020.

Since 2006 a female provost and the first female chair of the board of trustees have been appointed and many more women have been recruited into tenured and tenure-track faculty.

Administrators, however, disagree as to how realistic and achievable the Vision 2020 goals are.

While Gillian noted some progress, particularly in Engineering, in the last few years in hiring cycles, Nicholas Jones, dean of the WSE, disagreed.

"I don't think 50 percent is a realistic goal [for the Engineering School], even in a 12-year period because engineering is a field where just traditionally there are

far fewer women."

Jones estimated that the national average for undergraduate women in engineering programs is 19 or 20 percent, while Hopkins engineering is in the low 30s.

"This is for the undergraduate level," he said. "And this is, of course, the feeder for doctoral programs, which ultimately is the feeder for faculty positions. So to expect that even in the 12-year period we could obtain equality like that, fifty-fifty, I think that is unreasonable."

Adam Falk, dean of the KSAS, agreed with Jones that it is more difficult to recruit women for certain academic disciplines than others.

He wrote in a letter, "Women are more likely to be underrepresented in some fields than in others," noting especially mathematics and the physical sciences departments.

"For example, the first two tenured women in our Mathematics department were hired in the past decade, while English is half women and Anthropology has only one man. There's a lot of variation that is concealed by the overall school-wide numbers."

The growth in the number of women in Hopkins tenured fac-



DANIEL LITWIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cila Herman is one of few WSE women professors.

ulty for the past two years, since the release of Vision 2020, is about 20 percent.

In the WSE the increase is at about 8 percent, while in the School of Arts and Sciences the increase is at approximately 13 percent.

"Because the faculty turns over slowly, and because the hiring pools in some fields are still disproportionately male, progress can be slow even if it's steady," Falk wrote, noting that there exists a lag time between hiring as an assistant professor and as tenured faculty.

However, due to the economic situation, "[the WSE] will not be hiring many faculty members for the foreseeable future and so the ratios will not be able to change much."

The administration is working to address the gender inequality issue. Gillian spoke of a recent five-year plan, the Mosaic Initiative, responsible for the appointment of eight individuals who would contribute to the diversity of the University.

Students visit Israel in midst of Gaza war

By GISELLE CHANG
Staff Writer

With renewed military conflict in Gaza, the Coalition of Hopkins Activists for Israel (CHAI) hopes to increase student awareness about the situation with forums and guest speakers.

Leora Brody, the vice president of CHAI, said that as a non-religious and non-partisan club, CHAI is simply committed to advocating for Israel's right to a peaceful existence as a Jewish Democratic State.

"CHAI is looking to educate the student body about what is going on in Gaza, and we are planning several events for this purpose," she wrote in an e-mail to the *News-Letter*.

For the past several semesters, CHAI has invited a professor from the Political Science or International Studies Department to speak and give those who attend an update on the situation in the Middle East; the event is planned for late February though the professor has yet to be selected.

CHAI will also be inviting award-winning, independent Israeli-Arab journalist Khaled Abu Toameh to speak in early March.

"[Toameh] has been covering Palestinian issues in the West Bank and Gaza for over two decades... He now writes for the *Jerusalem Post*, and works frequently with NBC and TV-2 Denmark television," Brody said.

Teach Kids Peace is a program that CHAI hopes to bring to campus as well. It aims to highlight the global culture of hatred and intolerance and it promotes peace education for children in areas of conflict by raising public awareness and encouraging leaders of countries to act accordingly.

Over winter break, several Hopkins students experienced firsthand the events occurring in the Middle East through participation in the Birthright program in Israel.

Rabbi Etan of Hillel, who accompanied the students on the trip, explained how safety precautions were taken to ensure the security of all students.

"We had a guard with us as



COURTESY OF HEATHER BARBAKOFF

Student participants reported that despite the war, they felt safe on the trip.

well as a GPS tracking system to make sure that we were going to safe areas," he said. "Every morning we checked in with our home base to make sure that all the areas we were going to were safe and secure before we went."

Michael Brooks, a sophomore who went on the trip, agreed that there was no risk to the group and that he felt completely safe, especially since both sides (Israeli armed forces and Palestinian forces) had agreed on a ceasefire at that point.

The program was very much integrated with the Israeli government and warning system," Brooks explained. "They wouldn't have taken us anywhere dangerous; they do not take risk."

—MICHAEL BROOKS,
SOPHOMORE

in a shelter for an undisclosed amount of time.

Even given the possible risks, Brooks insisted that his parents were not concerned about his security, as they understood the program's emphasis on safety. Max Dworin, another Hopkins sophomore that went on the trip, said that as the program is free but limited to people between the ages of 18 and 26 he felt this winter break was the best time for him to take advantage of the opportunity even with the current military conflict in Israel.

Dworin also said that he did not feel the effects of the bombs as the trip was generally very much insulated from the war zone.

"Frankly, we didn't have time to read the paper or watch the news," he said. "You really would not know there was any war going on."

Though Dworin said he had limited exposure to information regarding the war in Israel, he emphasized that the trip is sponsored by a Zionist organization, which gives it a strong bias.

"The trip is very pro-Israel; there is a lot of stuff that is propaganda or borderline propaganda but there are two sides to the story," he said. "[Fundamentally] the trip is a Zionist trip so that's the agenda and I came out much more sympathetic for Israel [than I had been in the past]."

As the conflict escalated during winter break and intersession, campus discussion regarding the situation is just beginning.

Besides the events sponsored by CHAI, Rabbi Etan added that Hillel is organizing a Shabbat dinner.

"We're doing an Israel Shabbat, an open free Shabbat dinner that our group from Birthright will be hosting," he said.

Etan hopes this will bring more attention to the current issues.



COURTESY OF HEATHER BARBAKOFF

Students gather at a lookout point in Jerusalem.

Hopkins endowment returns drop by millions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

more pressure on our financial aid budget," O'Shea said.

Universities are reporting a range of fiscal losses. Those with cautious trustees and low-risk investments are weathering the storm, while those who recently expanded buildings or financial aid are feeling the squeeze a bit more, as noted by a recent report in the *New York Times*.

Schools that invested in sub-prime mortgage packages or other alternative types of investments are struggling the most.

Hopkins is committed to certain projects already — the renovations of Gilman Hall, for instance — but is working to halt further capital projects in an effort to save money.

"Some schools have delayed faculty or staff searches, frozen budgets or postponed renovation projects," O'Shea said.

Hopkins is concerned about a number of its revenue sources, O'Shea said, pointing out that Maryland's state aide to independent higher education has already been cut this year and the state's budget will be very tight again in fiscal 2010.

According to O'Shea, reimbursement for Hopkins's research overhead costs is tight.

Federal research dollars have been tight, and the future of research funding is unclear," he said. "And while, obviously, our University alumni and friends have been loyal, committed and very generous, the immediate future of philanthropic support is uncertain, not only for us but for

everyone."

O'Shea and Puddester both explained that the University is in a period of analyzing loss and planning for the future, but that many decisions have not yet been made.

"We have tightened our belts and managed these challenges for fiscal 2009, which ends June 30," O'Shea said. "This happened school-by-school; it did not involve across-the-board actions applying to the entire University."

Hopkins is working closely on saving money not only for the present, but for the months or even years of recession to come.

"After we had fiscal 2009 dealt with, we turned to planning for the even more challenging times expected over the next two fiscal years, beginning on July 1, 2009," O'Shea said.

"We're budgeting for more than \$100 million in reduced revenue University-wide in each of those two years."

Hopkins students have been feeling the brunt of this, with funding cut to student groups, intramural sports and other activities that students feel contributes to the undergraduate experience at Hopkins.

According to O'Shea, Hopkins is not suffering as much as expected in the context of the current financial crisis.

O'Shea said of Hopkins's losses, "[A loss of 20 percent] is negative, but it's actually a pretty good performance, considering the markets... I wish my personal investments had done as well!"

University welcomes new fraternity

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once it receives its charter from the headquarters. PDT does not plan to take a pledge class until they charter.

Seven PDT alumni, including Rob Turnring, the director of Greek Life at Hopkins, and Dustin Struble, the national director of Expansion, were present at Monday night's meeting.

PDT, founded in 1848 at Miami University, is one of the oldest fraternities in the nation. This will be the first time a chapter has ever been established at Hopkins.

"PDT seeks not just to be a service and networking frat or a business frat. It wants to excel in all areas," Ming Wen, a sophomore member in charge of PDT's public relations, said.

"We want to increase the focus on community service and networking. We want to complement the other fraternities and work with them," Shen said.

Shen explained that he hopes that PDT will be unlike other fraternities on campus.

"We want to attract other students who might not otherwise join Greek life. Some people think it will ruin their GPA or that they will be forced to do things they don't want to do. There are great guys in every frat. We want to break the stereotype of frats. The only way to understand Greek life is to be a part of it," Shen said.

Turnring expressed that he believes that PDT will be beneficial for Hopkins and help encourage the growth of all fraternities and sororities.

"PDT can increase the interest in Greek life in general. More people will see what Greek life has to offer," Turnring said. "Usually the introduction of a new group causes the numbers of all in Greek life to go up. The new group will challenge those with lower membership to step up and improve."

According to Turnring, the fraternity will require help from outside sources.

"The fraternity is also engaging area alumni. PDT has a goal of an eight-member alumni advisory board, which will strengthen Hopkins's ties with the community."

Turnring said that fraternity recruitment is relatively flat with generally the same percentage of men joining each year, while sorority recruitment is up. There are currently 191 women registered for this year's recruitment. Since men sign up for fraternities after rush, the number of men in-

terested in Greek life this year is not yet known.

"PDT meets all the requirements that current frats have. PDT also does a really good job with alumni networking and their use of technology. They even have a Facebook application to search for all members at all chapters," Turnring said.

Turnring also mentioned how Hopkins, an excellent school academically and with fraternity membership numbers above the national average, is attractive to a national fraternity.

"PDT has been especially successful as of late, partially due to the alcohol free housing policy. It has been growing at a pretty brisk pace nationally," Turnring said.

There are six colonies that are currently seeking a charter from the national organization and three interest groups, one of which is Hopkins. These interest groups have contacted the national headquarters in search of more information about becoming a colony and eventually a chapter.

Dustin Struble, the director of Expansion at PDT's General Headquarters, also expressed his confidence in the Hopkins chapter of PDT.

"It's exciting to see the demand. PDT allows its members to make the most of their college experience through leadership. The members here can establish what they want the fraternity to be," Struble said.

All members of PDT are required to complete 16 hours of community service per semester, and some ideas for service projects have already been considered.

"We would like to work with A Place to Talk (APT), Relay for Life, Hopkins Energy Action Team (HEAT) and other Center for Social Concern groups. We have a special partnership with ALS since Lou Gehrig is a PDT alumnus," Shen said.

Struble said that all members are also required to belong to one other student organization.



BRITNI CROCKER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Phi Delta Theta boasts 21 founding "fathers" during its first year of official establishment.

CORRECTIONS

There were no errors in the Dec. 4 issue of the News-Letter.

Professor Walters reflects on days as Berkeley student activist

By REBECCA FISHBEIN-
Staff Writer

Raised at the peak of the Cold War in 1950s central valley California, American Studies Professor Ron Walters came of age in an era dominated by intense paranoia and prying government activity.

In response to rising tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States, Senator Joseph McCarthy and his House of Un-American Activists (HUAC) deeply probed the lives and careers of U.S. citizens, blacklisting those they deemed to be involved in facets of communism.

Many responded to the government's anti-communist policies and infringement on individual privacy by embracing conformity and values they considered to be undeniably "American" in order to avoid unwanted attention.

But not all Americans were impressed by the uniform patriotism and reserved behavior sparked by McCarthy and HUAC; writers like Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs, for instance, spearheaded the beatnik movement, a cultural quasi-revolution that promoted anti-conformity and rampant creativity. It was this phenomenon that inspired a young Walters and his friends to embark upon their first forays into the wide world of social and political activism.

"When I was in high school, we were very attracted to the beatnik movement, to beat po-

etry, to anything really having to do with anti-conformity and disillusionment with our elders," Walters said.

Angered by the Cold War's dependence on stemming fear through threat of nuclear war and ultimate destruction, Walters and a few of his friends became involved with Quakers and their resilient anti-nuclear and anti-war movement.

He began to take part in political activity in and around his high school.

At one particular event, an anti-Hiroshima rally, a photographer snapped a picture of Walters that appeared in his local newspaper, much to the chagrin of his parents.

"I hadn't told my parents I was going [to the rally]," Walters said. "My dad worked for the Air Force. We had some interesting conversations."

Walters attended Stanford University as an undergraduate, where he continued to pursue his involvement in social and political activism.

"Most of what I participated in were anti-nuclear demonstrations," Walters said. "My activism was mostly that of a supporter. I was a pacifist and did a lot of hanging out with Quakers, which led to my interest in the anti-nuclear and anti-war

"In San Francisco, there was a really exciting mix. We'd go to great demonstrations during the week and hear great bands like the Grateful Dead and The Doors on the weekends."

-- PROFESSOR RON WALTERS

movement."

Walters and his fellow Stanford students also found activist inspiration through the then-President John F. Kennedy.

Walters, who helped participate in JFK's 1960 election by handing out informative pamphlets and other campaign materials, saw in the young president the opportunity for new possibilities for mainstream social activism.

"There were a lot of people

who saw John Kennedy as hopeful and optimistic, especially with his emphasis on the Peace Corps," Walters said.

"For some of us, we'd been through the whole beatnik non-conformity generation since middle school, and it looked like here was somebody at the time who really cared about youth, who inspired us to be idealistic rather than cynical.

What shattered it was Kennedy's death and the growing awareness of inequality in our community, like lingering McCarthyism, the rise of Black Power and the Civil Rights Movement."

As the 1960s wore on, Walters began to become even more involved in the ever-burgeoning anti-war and counterculture movement that swept through the young generation.

In 1963, he graduated early from Stanford and began his post-graduate studies at the University of California at Berkeley, where he spent the rest of the decade.

There, submerged in the rampant activist movements that defined San Francisco during that era, Walters found new opportunities to demonstrate against HUAC and the new Vietnam War, as well as to support the rising Civil Rights movement.

"We began to see that there were kinds of activist outlets other than the Peace Corps that were more radical, perhaps more collective," Walters said.

He pointed out that at the same time, "beat" culture was morphing into drug and music culture.

"Some people were drifting towards [drugs and music], some people were drifting towards other activism. There existed this notion that if you want to change the world, you change yourself and you change your lifestyle," he said.

"In San Francisco, there was a really exciting mix. We'd go to great demonstrations during the week and hear great bands like the Grateful Dead and The Doors on the weekends. Many of us didn't see that these are actually very different ways of changing the world, one being collective

political engagement, the other beginning with your own lifestyle."

One major event that took place while Walters was at Berkeley was the Free Speech Movement of 1964, where students protested a University ban on political activity on campus and championed their first amendment rights and freedoms.

"[The Free Speech Movement] was a complete eye-opener in that it was initially a coalition that didn't last very long and was pretty fragile, but showed what students could accomplish in terms of shutting down the university and getting arrested," Walters said.

"It used the Civil Rights movement as a model, which made it seem closer to home than what was going on in, say, Selma, Alabama."

Walters's time at Berkeley gave him the opportunity to learn from some of the most influential left-wing thinkers of the time, thus further inspiring him to push for real change in the outside world.

"I was fascinated by old lefties, and that's what got me into all the anti-HUAC stuff," Walters said.

"Some of these people I actually saw as pieces of history, like the famous radical Harry Bridges."

Walters also noted that up until very recently, today's youth might not have had the same connection to a cause that his generation had back in the '60s.

"There isn't that kind of sense that things are very local and immediate," Walters said.

"My generation saw the struggle against the Berkeley administration as part of the student movement, which was a part of the Civil Rights movement, which connected all the way to the decolonization of the Caribbean."

We were able to connect the personal and local to the national and the international."

Walters did see the recent election of Barack Obama as an example of how young adults can be inspired into activism by the events around them, such as effects of the Bush administration on the world economy.

think much in terms of organization."

"My generation was pretty disdainful of previous generations," he said. "But we still had vestiges of labor union organizing, religious organizations and

He drew connections between Barack Obama and John F. Kennedy, the president who sparked Walters's own generation's rise to activism.

"With Obama, there's that personal connection," Walters



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Professor Walters works with Mike Reese in preparing an American History lesson.

the Civil Rights movement. I'm not sure your generation still maintains that infrastructure of organization."

"You see him as someone very different who is addressing issues that matter. You probably came to see connections to what's going on here and what's going on in Europe and elsewhere in the world. If you look at John Kennedy, the promises he held out to my generation, to intellectuals, to women, to African Americans... each of those groups became more active than before later on."

Walters ended the interview with some words of advice for this generation of would-be activists.

"If you want to change the world, step back and ask how you do it. Ask some of the hard questions that emerged over time. Where do you begin? Do you begin with your own lifestyle? Do you begin through organization?"

"Today's movements almost don't have a physical body. They exist through television, computers, the Internet. If you want to change things, think about how you're doing it and the implications of your choices."

Johns Hopkins seniors, graduate students, and recent graduates:

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Hopkins employees give to successful United Way effort

By ERIN REILLY
For the News-Letter

Despite challenging economic times and a national drop in donations, Hopkins employees donated in large numbers to United Way of Central Maryland, surpassing the school's goal.

Among the organization's 700 workplaces campaigns, Hopkins employees have pledged the most in 2008 with \$2.5 million.

Fifteen divisions within Johns Hopkins surpassed their goal of \$1,231,500 by nearly \$13,000. These numbers exclude the Hopkins Medicine team, which worked independently from the rest of the project.

They raised an additional \$1.3 million, which was donated to United Way, raising the total fundraising efforts on behalf of Hopkins to \$2.5 million.

Within Hopkins schools, the School of Medicine was the highest contributor to the campaign, pledging 107 percent of its goal with a total final donation of \$696,164.

The School of Public Health pledged \$147,657, while the Schools of Arts and Sciences and Engineering pledged \$69,297 and \$41,253 respectively.

"I think as a major presence in Maryland and Baltimore, Johns Hopkins has an obligation to be a leader in supporting its community," Nick Jones, Benjamin T. Rome Dean of the Whiting School of Engineering and chair of the Johns Hopkins Neighborhood Fund, which works in coalition with United Way, said.

United Way focuses on creating long-lasting community change by addressing the most significant local issues. The organization has outlined three main objectives: education, income and health as their main goals for outreach.

"United Way is the lifeline for a lot of people in our community," Director of the Office of Faculty, Staff and Retiree programs and campaign administrator Jeff Pratt said.

"There are a lot of people struggling, whether it be through United Way's general connections, through major organizations that are helping people on their day-to-day basis or their 2-1-1 Call for Help."

The 2-1-1 call line offers assistance to callers with tasks such as getting food or dealing with creditors.

In 2007, Jones was asked to chair the newly established Johns Hopkins Neighborhood Fund in coalition with United Way. The Fund was established as a means of directing charitable funds to the Homewood area.

"There was some concern expressed by members of the Hop-

kins community that besides the fact that we were a major contributor to United Way, people wanted to see some of their philanthropic contributions invested in part of the broader presence in Baltimore and specifically the Homewood area," Jones said.

This year, the Johns Hopkins Neighborhood Fund received approximately \$200,000 of the total contribution to United Way to allocate to local organizations that help further the initiatives outlined by United Way.

As the fundraising efforts just finished, the recipients of this year's grant have yet to be announced.

Last year, 10 local organizations were recognized as recipients of the Johns Hopkins Neighborhood Fund.

One of last year's recipients, The BioTechnical Institute of Maryland, trains unemployed East Baltimore residents as laboratory technicians and places them in jobs.

"We were thrilled and delighted to submit an application and we were so pleased that it was considered favorably," Kathleen Weiss, the executive director of The BioTechnical Institute of Maryland, said.

Economists report that due to the troubled conditions in the market this past fall, there has been a severe drop in charitable donations.

However the economic conditions did not seem to affect the Hopkins community as it surpassed its giving goal.

Despite tough times, certain individuals will always find ways to assist others with donations to such charitable organizations.

"I gave to United Way because I think that if you don't give back to your community you are just a waste of life. Everyone should give back to help the less fortunate because we know they are out there," Arnetta Pratt, a cashier at Charles Street Market, said.

"We are anticipating a drop in total giving to United Way due to the economy. We aren't finding people unwilling to give during these economic times but rather people unable to give," Molly Boncaro, the director of Relationship Management for United Way of Central Maryland, said.

Many people have found themselves in need of help or on the verge of needing help, who have never before been in this position."

Boncaro said that Hopkins' efforts to help United Way has assisted the organization in one of its most need times.

"United Way has never been needed more. And neither has organizations like Johns Hopkins who contribute so much to the annual campaign."

SHIP in planning after approval from Univ.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
financial situation.

"We really don't have a limit to funds. As long as we meet the criteria of the seven-year payback, we'll have the funds available. It's very much how much we need, as long as we prove that it's effective," he said.

The seven-year plan stipulates that all proposed projects must generate their initial funding in savings for the school within seven years.

Since its approval, SHIP has had its first Evaluations Committee meeting. All projects that exceed \$5,000 must be presented before the Committee to seek approval.

The Committee is composed of SHIP members and heads of campus environmental groups, including Engineers for a Sustainable World, Students for Environmental Action and the Hopkins Energy Action Team. University representatives from Facilities Management, the Environmental Engineering department and the finance deans of Arts and Sciences and Engineering are also members.

Last fall, SHIP completed a project that replaced the library's hand dryers with more efficient models.

Sophomore Michael Rogers, a member of the SHIP Executive Board, described the motivation behind the project.

"Even though some of them are quite new, they are rated for power consumptions that are substantially more than newer models on the market," he said.

According to Rogers, the new hand dryers are up to 80 percent more efficient.

SHIP plans to have another meeting around March to consider additional projects.

Murphy noted that there were some larger projects in the works that would have a more prominent impact on campus. One such project is converting the escort vans into a more efficient form of transportation.

"We want to replace the escort vans because most of the time not all the seats are used, and they use a lot of gas since they are large, inefficient vehicles," he said. "If we can replace them with more efficient vehicles, we can save a lot of money really fast."

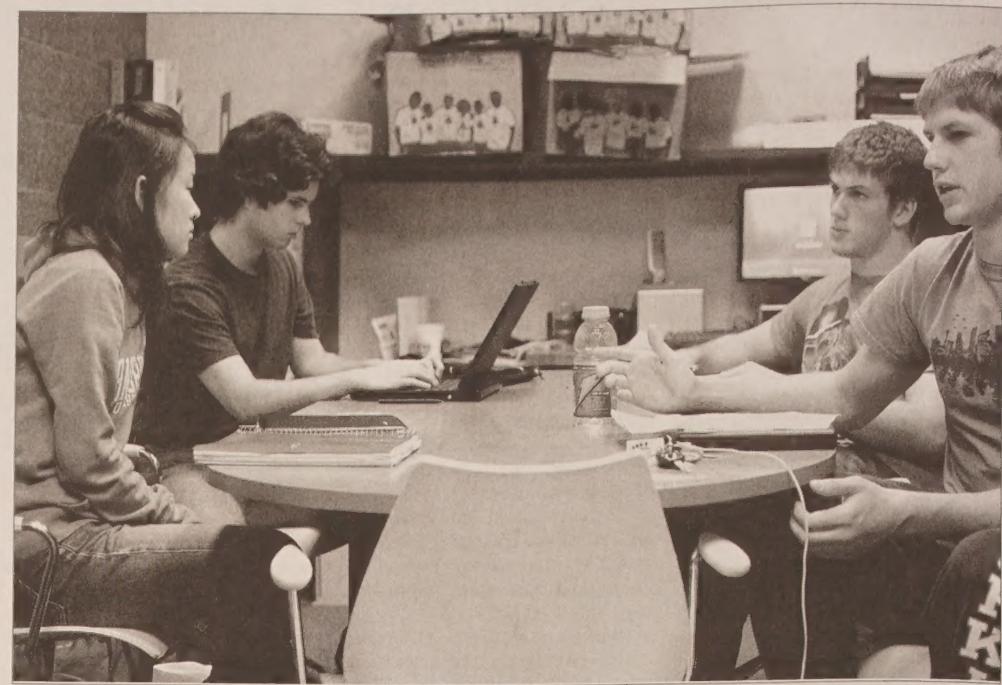
Although Murphy emphasized that the project has not yet received University approval, he was optimistic about its success, largely due to the offer of fiscal support from the Maryland government.

"Because of the size of the project and its large-scale impact, we would also be able to get funds from one of the State of Maryland's energy commissions, and that would really help," he said.

Teran pointed out the benefit of the state's support in more expensive projects.

"Due to our new relationship with the state, it looks like we'll be able to extend the payback on certain projects that prove to be more important but don't have the seven-year payback," he said. "Things are looking pretty optimistic."

Dean Frederick Puddester, senior associate dean for Finance and Administration for the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and a member of the University's Task Force on Climate Change, spoke positively about the students' efforts.



FILE PHOTO

Members of the executive board of SHIP plan for potential future projects after getting approval from the administration.

mistic in terms of being able to do what we want to do."

The escort van conversion is slated for proposal at SHIP's next Evaluations Committee meeting.

Teran also mentioned plans for the MSE library.

"We're working on a series of retrofits in the MSE library that include the urinals and toilets. We're improving the efficiency exponentially on all those devices," he said. "We're also looking to install dual-flush toilets in the women's bathrooms."

Another potential project would convert garbage that the Homewood campus generates into electricity.

"We're still not through with the numbers on it, but it looks pretty hopeful," Teran noted.

In addition, Teran spoke about plans to improve laboratory sustainability.

"We're also looking to start working on sustainable lab practices. For example, each fume hood draws more energy when it's open, on average, than an American home," he said.

Teran mentioned that previous efforts to reduce energy use in the lab have actually exacerbated the problem.

"When the fume hoods are open, the lights in the room stay on, and that was a way to try to get people to close them," he said. "But now, people just let the lights stay on."

Dean Frederick Puddester, senior associate dean for Finance and Administration for the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and a member of the University's Task Force on Climate Change, spoke positively about the students' efforts.

"I have been very impressed with their professionalism, their hard work, the product they've produced, and we're just happy to help out a little bit," he said. "These kids are serious about it, and they're putting forth some really great ideas."

Puddester noted that despite the financially trying times, Hopkins was still willing to offer its support.

"Certainly we're under some very challenging times financially, but if they meet the criteria which means we get some savings, [if] they remain small, we're committed to continuing to fund these projects," he said.

Dean James Aumiller, associate dean for Finance and Administration for the Whiting School of Engineering, works in concert with Dean Puddester and SHIP. He was also supportive of SHIP's goals.

"We're always looking at those two factors: making the campus green and doing projects that will pay for themselves in the long term. So, it just fits in nicely with that philosophy," he said. "We're really excited about seeing it progress."

SHIP received further recognition when it was adopted as a part of the Community Partnerships Working Groups for the President's Task Force on Climate Change.

According to Davis Bookhart, manager of Energy Management and Environmental Stewardship in the Office of Facilities Management, SHIP acts as a sort of "suggestion box" for students to propose changes they wish to see made.

"The program itself is designed to evaluate the feasibility

of projects to see how they stack up in terms of financial and environmental criteria. SHIP really is, more than anything, an evaluation process," he said. "It's a nice way of putting a structure in place to allow people to be creative."

Rogers also emphasized the importance of student involvement in the program.

"It's only as strong as the ideas we get, and we'd like to expand as much as we can," he said. "As committed as the executive board is, we're limited by the number of ideas that all of us can come up with."

According to Teran, student participation in SHIP has been successful thus far.

"In our last round of applications, there were five different student proposals, and now I know that there are several others that are in the works," he said. "We've been approached by the med school in terms of expanding its programs, so it's working in terms of making it something that comes from the students."

Murphy noted that SHIP hopes to create a sense of unity among environmental groups on campus.

Julia Blocher, director of the Hopkins Energy Action Team, felt that SHIP was an asset in unifying environmental groups' efforts.

"Not only does it help us all in various environmental groups to work together on deciding which projects are most worthy of funding, but it is also really helpful for individuals who want to see something done on campus," she said.

"They can get funding for their individual projects without having to go through the environmental groups."

Murphy felt in the past, students had not been complacent about environmental issues but instead lacked avenues for generating the changes they desired.

"I think there was more bureaucracy in the way of their successes," he said. "Through SHIP, these projects that could have been done five years ago weren't able to be done, because administration wasn't as receptive. But now, they are."

Fire alarm delayed in McCoy, causes concern with safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

a problem with the pipeline and called the Housing Office."

"Later the alarm sounded. We did not know if it was a drill or an actual fire," Evans said.

The fire department determined the cause of the fire to be a malfunction in a cell phone charger left plugged in the power strip in suite 201. The cell phone charger was melted to the power strip.

According to Tracey Angel, director of Housing and Conference Services, the power strip was approved by Underwriters Laboratories, a product safety testing and certification firm.

The fire ignited from the cell phone charger spread to the carpet area, chair and the desk," Angel said.

"Fortunately, the student was not in the room when the fire started. The smoke detector and sprinkler immediately extinguished the fire, but the sprinkler system affected the rooms downstairs."

The smoke detector set off

sprinklers in three second floor suites, affecting the rooms below and those on the terrace level.

"The fire panel is checked each day and the alarm operating systems are checked four times per year," Angel said.

"The McCoy alarm system was checked by FireLine one week before the fire, and this system, including the microchip, was fine.

"[The alarm malfunction] was likely a computer problem that no one could anticipate."

The next day, the Housing Office sent letters to the 32 students in the nine damaged suites explaining the cause of fire and the flooding.

The affected suites were closed and students' personal belongings were gathered in bags.

The Housing Office provided conference linens and escorts to retrieve important possessions for the students' temporary stay.

Campus Security formed a fire watch with extra security officers

to monitor McCoy 24 hours a day. Signs were put up around McCoy asking students to be extra vigilant.

"The drying of water was done by Monday and the students in the flooded suites will be able to return this Friday," Evans said. "The suite where the fire started needs more time for repair and construction."

While the Housing Office did the best they could to provide the students with temporary stay, there was some confusion during the process.

"They were very quick to give us rooms to stay, but they were late in notifying the people what happened," sophomore Melody Nath, a resident in one of the affected suites, said.

"Housing also did not notify the some students whose rooms the affected people moved in to so there was some confusion there too."

The students living in McCoy had different views concerning the fire and the delay of the fire alarm.

While some students were

shocked at the malfunction, other students were not even aware of the delay.

Others had heard the news about the delay of the fire alarm later, but were not concerned because of a disconnect in communication.

"The hallway was flooded. We called the maintenance, but they did not know what was happening. Thirty minutes later the alarm rang," Jennifer Whitehead, a sophomore neuroscience major, said.

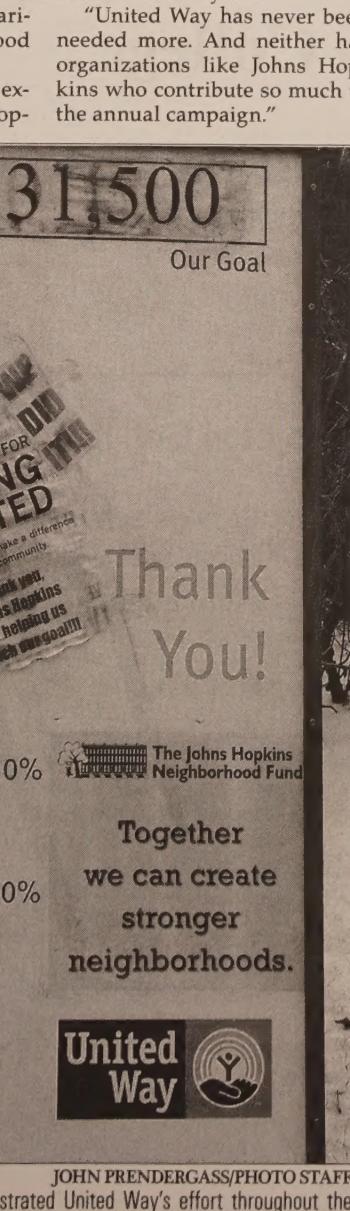
Her reaction, however, was different after she heard what had caused the fire.

"The RA told us later in the evening what had happened and I flipped out."

Other students reacted differently to the fire alarm, mostly because they were not sure how to treat the incident.

"I wasn't really concerned. The fire had been extinguished already when the alarm rang," sophomore Baoluo Sun, also a McCoy resident, said.

"I thought it was just another fire drill."



This sign on North Charles Street illustrated United Way's effort throughout the fundraising effort and now shows the completion of the project.

Knowledge for the World fundraises second largest amount in U.S. university history

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
was announced publicly in 2002 with a goal of raising \$2 billion by the end of 2007.

When this initial goal was surpassed in December 2005, the trustees extended the goal to \$3.2 billion by the end of 2008, which was surpassed in June 2008.

According to the *Chronicle for Higher Education*, the \$3.741 billion raised by Knowledge for the World is the second largest amount raised by any university campaign in the history of U.S. higher education. The only campaign to have raised more money is currently taking place at Stanford University, which has close ties to Silicon Valley. The

Stanford campaign has brought in \$3.824 billion to date, with a goal of \$4.3 billion by 2011.

According to Fritz Schroeder, senior associate vice president for development, the campaign was a summation of efforts from various people, including Brody, the deans of the nine schools of the University, the CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine and thousands of volunteers around the country who support university programs and departments.

"Brody's leadership and the vision he laid out for the institution were important to the campaign's success," Schroeder said. "We also benefit from having more than a quarter million individuals around the world who

believe strongly in this institution and its power to affect change in the world."

Schroeder believes terrific academic leadership, the University's supportive base of alumni and friends and good staff work all contributed to the success of the campaign.

Of the total contributions made to the campaign, the

largest percentage was committed to research. The \$1.27 billion donated for research support will go toward supporting faculty members who are pursuing projects that are too novel to acquire government funding.

The other contributions from the campaign include \$1.01 billion for program support across the nine schools, \$675 million for renovation of facilities, \$237 million for faculty support and \$301 million for student aid.

Schroeder explained that contributions to student aid would be used to build upon the University's foundation for financial aid by adding money to the scholarships and aid that is provided.

"This doesn't mean students next year will have more or less financial aid," Schroeder said. "It just allows us to be more generous as we are dealing with applicants coming in as well as students who are here today."

According to Nicholas Jones, dean of the Whiting School of Engineering, contributions to the campaign fall into two categories: designated funds and discretionary funds. Designated funds represent a contract between the donor and the University that the money will be used as the donor requested, such as for specific research or financial aid for undergraduates.

The dean of the school to which the money was committed as he or she sees fit can use discretionary funds, also called un-



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Gilman Hall's \$73 million renovation drew much of its funds from the Knowledge for the World campaign.

designated funds. Undesignated funds that are not committed to a specific school are allocated by the president.

"One of the great things

about undesignated funds

is that they represent an investment in the school that is dispersed at the discretion of the deans," Jones said. "And then we can go and make strategic investments in what we feel are important areas of opportunity."

Knowledge for the World raised \$242 million in undesignated funds, which represents less than one percent of the total contributions.

The largest designated commitment made to the Knowledge for the World Campaign was from Sidney Kimmel, the founder of Jones Apparel Group, in 2001. Kimmel announced a \$150 million contribution for cancer research and patient care at what is now the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center in San Diego, Calif.

Other outstanding contributions include \$100 million from an anonymous donor in 2001 toward the establishment of the Hopkins Malaria Research Institute at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and \$100 million from an anonymous donor in 2006 to support construction of a new children's hospital, renovation of Gilman Hall and research initiatives in the School of Medicine and the Bloomberg School of Public

Health.

Fifty-eight percent of the total funds from the campaign, or \$2.17 billion, went to Hopkins Medicine, which includes the Hopkins Hospital and Health System, as well as the School of Medicine.

According to Steve Rum, associate vice president of Development and Alumni Relations for Hopkins Medicine, the original fundraising goal for the health system was \$900 million.

In the end, \$900 million was raised for medical research alone.

In addition, over \$400 million was raised for facility renovation.

"One of the original goals of the campaign [for Hopkins Medicine] was to recapitalize the East Baltimore campus in terms of research and clinical buildings," Rum said.

Although the end of the Knowledge for the World campaign marks a significant milestone in fundraising at the Uni-

versity, Schroeder stressed that it by no means marks the end.

Ronald Daniels, Brody's successor as President of the University, is not unfamiliar with fundraising at the University level.

As dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto, Daniels increased the University's endowment from \$75,000 to more than \$57 million between 1995 and 2004.

According to Schroeder, he is actively meeting with Hopkins trustees and donors to establish relationships even before he enters office on March 2.

Daniels understands that an institution like Hopkins relies on private support to move forward," Schroeder said. "When he arrives and learns more about the institution, he will decide what his vision for Hopkins is and how private support will help that vision."

According to Rum, the University, especially Hopkins Medicine, will always be in need of private contributions.

"We're in the business of collaborating, creating and curing," Rum said.

"We collaborate on research, create opportunities and cure diseases. In order to have effective research and outcomes, we will always need philanthropic dollars."

Rev. Mosely chosen for interfaith skills

New chaplain aims to foster dialog between faiths and increase tolerance

By CONOR FOLEY
Staff Writer

Hopkins is what he perceives to be the community's effort to create an open and tolerant environment.

"Part of what attracted me to the Chaplain's position at Hopkins is what I perceived to be a genuine commitment to developing and fostering meaningful dialog among persons all along the faith spectrum," Mosley wrote in an e-mail. "My initial impression of the Campus Ministry program at Hopkins is that there is one corner of the world where sincere effort is placed upon building a unique and inclusive community of faith that has as one of part of its core values tolerance and a willingness to engage otherness."

Mosley outlined what he sees as his main goals as chaplain. First, to provide spiritual, intellectual and moral leadership. Second, he seeks to increase an awareness of the role of faith in intellectual and social pursuits. Third, he wants to develop opportunities for students to pursue spiritual and vocational interests in a variety of faith traditions. Fourth, he hopes to provide a resource center for the many beliefs represented on campus.

"I think that Rev. Mosley brings strength on many fronts. He has solid experience working with students both as a chaplain and a professor. He has exceptional interpersonal skills and the ability to work with people from

all faith traditions as well as those who do not have established traditions," Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell said in an e-mail.

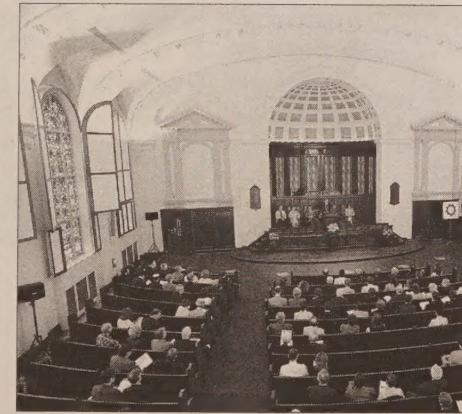
Mosley received a Bachelor's in molecular biology from Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss. and went on to receive a Master's of divinity degree from Duke University in 1998 and a Master's of sacred theology degree from Yale in 1999. He has served as assistant dean and director of religious life at Duke University and as spiritual and administrative leader of a diverse urban religious community in Philadelphia. He has also received many awards for his work, including the Bishop's Medal given by the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church for meritorious service to church and society.

"[I] think that my training in molecular biology and my subsequent educational experiences at top institutions like Duke and Yale have greatly prepared me to serve in a setting like Hopkins. I understand the mindset of students at institutions like these — they are very hard-working, very committed and many of them have strong passions and interests that they are sometimes not

able to express because of their hectic schedules. I understand this and would work to develop programming that meets these types of students where they are," Mosley wrote.

Mosley also discussed some programs that he would consider once he has had time to develop a unique approach to the issues facing Hopkins and the Baltimore community. He suggested a Chaplaincy roundtable to bring together students, staff and faculty with the Baltimore community to discuss social and ethical issues. He also proposed international service trips and a banquet to increase awareness about world hunger and poverty.

"Each school is different, so my approach will be to initially assess what types of things would and would not work here at Hopkins," Mosley wrote.

COURTESY OF WILL KIRK
Mosley, the new chaplain, believes his experiences as a former bio student will help him understand students.

SECURITY ALERTS

At midnight on Jan. 5, a repeat burglar broke a window at Donna's Cafe, entered the cafe and stole cash from the register. Based on an ongoing investigation, the suspect was charged with the burglaries on Dec. 21, 2008 of both Barnes and Noble and Cold Stone Creamery in Charles Village. Baltimore Police are continuing investigation.

On Dec. 29 at 9:30 a.m., an unknown female approached a teller at Bank of America on St. Paul Street and displayed a note that implied she held a weapon. The teller yelled at the suspect to leave and no weapon was displayed. The suspect left the bank and fled south on St. Paul Street. Police searched the area with negative results.

On Dec. 21 at approximately 11 p.m., an unknown male broke a window at Barnes and Noble on the 33rd Street side of the store. Several minutes later, the suspect used a tool to break the glass of the front door of Cold Stone Creamery. He stole cash from two registers and fled southbound on St. Paul Street.

On Dec. 20 at 6 p.m., a senior undergraduate was walking across the bridge by West University Parkway and was approached by three juveniles, approximately 15 to 17 years old. One of the suspects, without provocation, struck the undergraduate across the face with his fist, and then the three ran east on University Parkway.

On Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. on the 300 block of East 33rd Street, a non-affiliate was walking alone when a male came out of an alley, displayed a black handgun and demanded that the victim keep walking. The victim began yelling and ran to a nearby residence, where he called the police. Baltimore Police canvassed the area and arrested a suspect in the rear alley of 33rd Street. The investigation is continuing.

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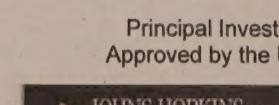
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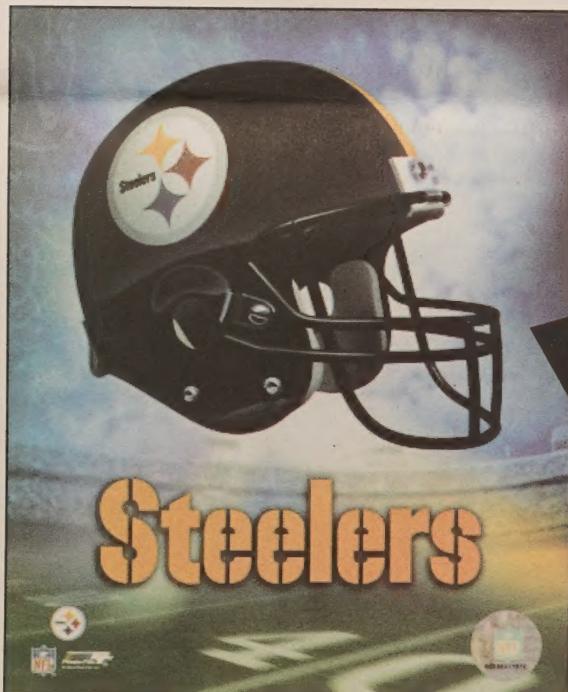
FILE PHOTO
Students will receive \$301 million in student aid from the fundraising campaign.

THE BIG GAME IS

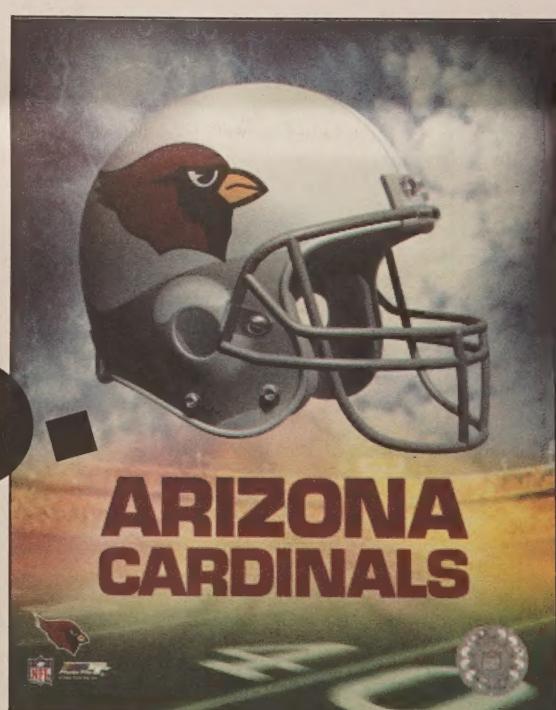
February 1st from 5pm- Midnight @



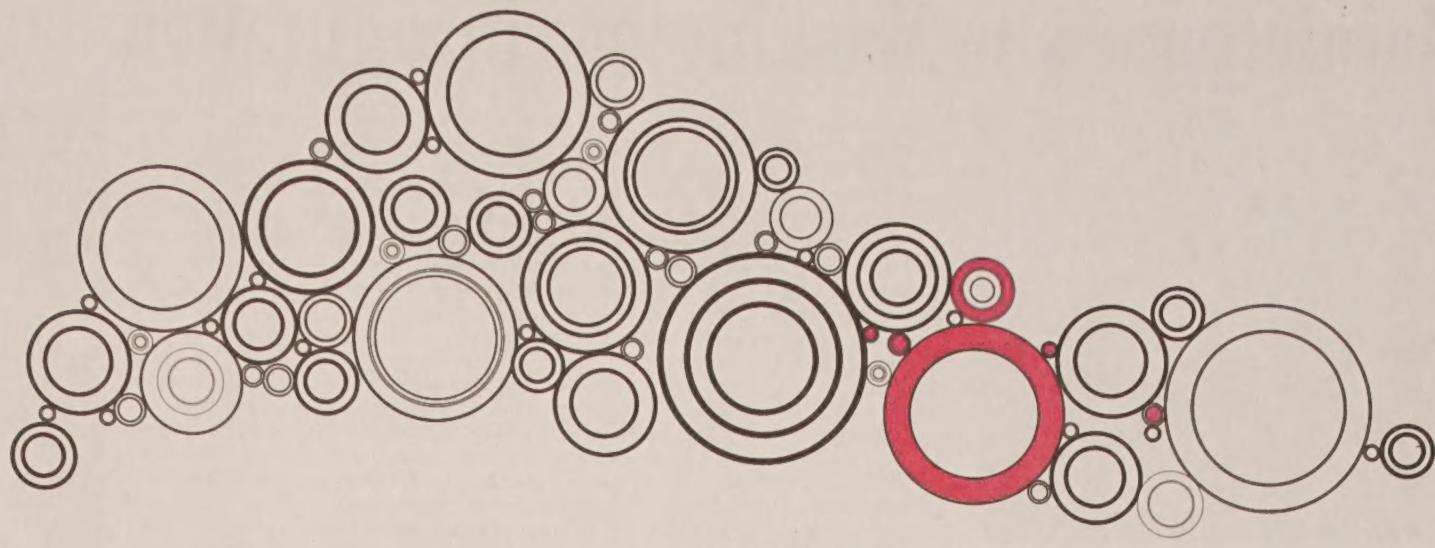
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PRINCE ZEID BIN RA'AD

February 4 Hodson Room 110 7 PM

Jordan's ambassador to the United States and head of the royal house of Iraq.

DAVID E. SANGER

March 3 Glass Pavilion 8 PM

Chief Washington Correspondent for the New York Times.

ROBERT KAGAN

March 11 Glass Pavilion 8 PM

Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment and author of Dangerous Nation.

GLOBAL FINANCIAL

CRISIS PANEL

March 31 Glass Pavilion 8 PM

The global financial crisis is historic in both scale and severity. How did we get to this point? What more can be done? An expert panel discusses this pressing economic calamity.

PETER BERGEN

April 1 Glass Pavilion 8 PM

CNN's national security analyst and producer of the first TV interview with Osama Bin Laden.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL

DISASTERS PANEL

April 6 Glass Pavilion 8 PM

An in-depth look into various man-made and human induced environmental disasters. Panelists will discuss the detrimental impacts, physical and mental, sustained by the people affected by these catastrophes.

JANE EVELYN ATWOOD

April 21 Glass Pavilion 8 PM

Internationally renowned documentary photo-journalist.

DARFUR NOW SCREENING WITH

ADAM STERLING

TBA Glass Pavilion 8 PM

Screening of the documentary *Darfur Now* and a discussion with the Genocide Intervention Network's Adam Sterling.

JOHN MICKLETHWAIT

TBA Glass Pavilion 8 PM

Editor-in-Chief for The Economist.

THE BUSH LEGACY

IN FOREIGN POLICY

TBA Glass Pavilion 8 PM

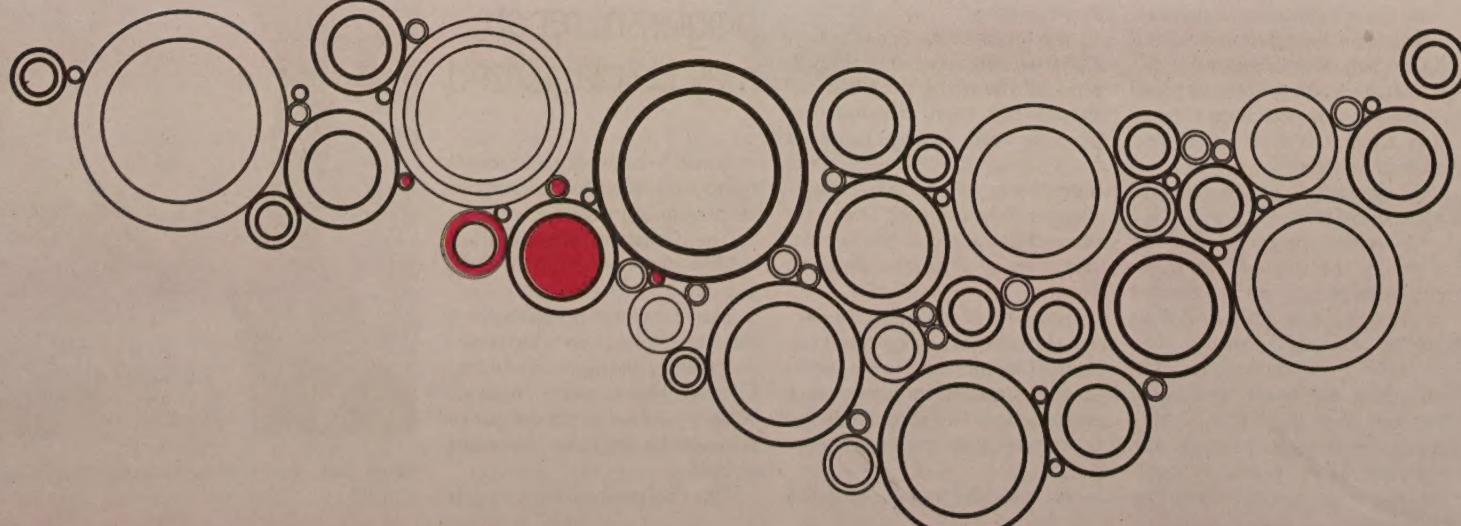
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NEWS & FEATURES

Miss Mainiero goes to Washington: Inauguration Day 2009



Almost two million people filled the National Mall to watch the Inauguration.

COURTESY OF LEAH MAINIERO

Tuesday morning had arrived all too soon. I had stayed in a house just outside of D.C. with my two friends the night before, from which we began what we hoped would be a smooth trip on the red line metro into D.C. to watch the inauguration of the first African-American president in our nation's history.

To a college student, 5 a.m. was an ungodly hour — a time to be spent in bed, not traipsing through the snow toward a metro station packed with people.

Hitting the road

I couldn't believe my ears, therefore, when during the dark drive to the metro the car radio announced that crowds had lined up along the inauguration parade route as early as 4 a.m. that morning. I was even more dismayed when the weatherman announced temperatures in the teens and 20s for Inauguration Day, though grateful that I had donned the five layers of clothing I had originally considered excessive.

My friends and I were up and ready to go by 5:30. The security measures in place near the

National Mall specified that at checkpoints bags could not be larger than four by six by eight inches in size, limiting my overnight packing to a toothbrush, wallet, camera and an excessive amount of athletic tape and Advil to treat my severely sprained ankle and help me survive a long day of standing in line and trekking blocks and blocks through the crowded metropolis.

Soon one of my friends parted ways with my fellow coeditor and me; the two of us, lucky enough to have obtained Inauguration tickets, rode the metro all the way to Federal Center.

Stepping onto the street, mobs of people milled around on the sidewalks, smiling and snapping photos in the streets. What struck us at first was how outgoing the people there were. Though numbed from the frigid wind, hungry and packed so tightly we couldn't raise our arms above our heads, the celebratory mood still prevailed.

As we walked past we noticed people handing out free name tags reading "Hello my name is" to encourage people to strike up conversations and introduce themselves while waiting in line

at the Mall entrance.

People chatted with friendly spectators in line next to them, helped make way for the disabled and elderly, took photos for others and even passed messages "telephone-style" between people separated by the crowd. One woman near us even took it upon herself to shout directions to lost ticketholders looking for their assigned gate.

We saw people sporting Obama hats, pins and tattoos. Businessmen wore red, white and blue Mardi Gras beads and one woman had even wrapped herself in a patriotic feather boa. Of course the press was out in force, with helicopters hovering over the Mall and reporters conducting interviews. Our friend was even lucky enough to catch a glimpse of CNN news anchor Anderson Cooper at work.

The National Park Service estimated that 1.8 million people had traveled to D.C. to watch Barack Obama be sworn in as the 44th President. To get better views of the Mall and giant JumboTron screens, some of the more daring spectators climbed trees, lamp posts and cement walls. Even the roofs of the porta potties, the reflecting pool that had been transformed into an ice rink and the statue of President Grant in front of it weren't safe from eager climbers.

Rushing the barricade

After a couple of hours waiting, the crowd at our security gate entrance started to get antsy. Rumor rippled through the crowd that the gate had closed and ticketholders would not be able to enter the Mall area at all.

Spontaneous chanting of "Let us in!" broke out next to chants of "Obama" and "Yes we can!" Soon the crowd was pushing forward.

My friend and I, one row away from the barrier, clasped hands so we wouldn't be separated in the confusion and were pushed along over the barrier with our fellow ticketholders. We reached the right side of the reflecting

pool — an area with a wonderful view of the Capitol steps and a JumboTron screen. Granted at that point we could probably be considered a security threat and had knocked over a barrier in the process, but we were now in a perfect position to view the swearing-in ceremony.

Enter: President Obama

The music ended and the ceremony began. Obama himself emerged from the inside of the Capitol building, greeted by a cheer from the crowd. Hours of anticipation were finally coming to an end and it sunk in that I was witnessing a significant moment in American history.

But my excitement died a bit when I realized that with the cacophony of millions of people clapping, chanting, cheering and shouting — even singing "Hey hey hey, goodbye" when President George W. Bush appeared on the JumboTron — hearing Obama's speech in its entirety was impossible.

Rather, I resigned myself to catching as many words as possible and planning to re-watch a recorded version on YouTube upon returning to my dorm. The only speech I was able to hear in its entirety, in fact, was Pastor Rick Warren's prayer — anyone trying to talk or clap was aggressively hushed by the people around them.

The most striking moment of Obama's speech, however, ringing out over the speakers and audible over the noise, sent chills down my spine:

"For those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our

spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you," he said, sparking a cheer from the people around me.

But even though we were witnessing history, we couldn't even tell when this historic moment in time ended. My view now blocked by a gigantic tree, it was impossible to tell if the ceremony ended or if there was simply a lull between speakers. We eventually figured it out and started making our way away from the National Mall.

Getting out of D.C. took four hours and every ounce of patience we had in us. I walked two miles (with a sprained ankle) through a rough section of D.C. just to get to an open metro station.

Compared to the area around the National Mall, it seemed like we had stepped into a different world. The Capitol building still



COURTESY OF KELSEY MILLER

Enthusiastic Inauguration-goers sported Obama pins and hats.

towered in the distance, but seeing the run-down houses and prevalent signs of vandalism as we walked made us realize that this side of DC, while in desperate need of help, remained eclipsed by the excitement and prestige of its glamorous counterparts.

We had shared witnessing the Inauguration of the first African-American president with millions of fellow Americans; witnessing the "other side" of D.C. was an experience we shared with considerably fewer.



COURTESY OF LEAH MAINIERO

Inauguration-goers sought better views of the proceedings from porta potty roofs, trees and lampposts.

News in Brief

Virginia Tech student decapitated

Last Friday, Virginia Tech witnessed another brutal murder of one of their students, stirring up memories of the recent 2007 massacre.

Xin Yang and Haiyang Zhu, both international students, had arrived in the U.S. barely a month ago from China to study at Virginia Tech.

Zhu, an economics Ph.D student, befriended the 22-year-old Yang, showing her around campus and serving as her mentor.

Because of their seemingly amicable relationship, authorities are puzzled as to why Zhu committed such a atrocious crime against Yang.

The night of the murder, Zhu and Yang were seen sitting together in an Au Bon Pain cafe.

There was no shouting or unusual behavior that precipitated the attack.

Police responded to 911 calls around 7 p.m. and arrived on the scene to find Zhu holding the severed head of Yang.

The crime was committed in the presence of several witnesses.

A large kitchen knife and Zhu's backpack filled with sharp weapons was found nearby. Upon researching Zhu's webpage, police found a site where Zhu talks about killing someone else or committing suicide due to the losses in the stock market and the general economic down fall.

When the police arrived at the scene they found Zhu holding Yang's decapitated head in his hands.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA.ORG

The city has offered no-interest loans to owner Tom Kiefaber to keep the Senator Theatre open.

Baltimore residents refuse to pay Dixon's legal fees

Mayor Sheila Dixon of Baltimore was indicted on 12 charges of fraud, perjury, felony theft and misconduct earlier this month.

Dixon purportedly received \$15,348 in gifts from former boyfriend Ronald H. Lipscomb and used \$3,400 worth of gift cards, donations intended for needy families of Baltimore, to purchase items from Best Buy and Toys R Us for herself and her staff.

After pleading not guilty and enduring nine Baltimore grand jury trials, Dixon awaits the results of her trial.

If convicted, Dixon faces 85 years of prison.

A recently proposed draft for a policy that would reimburse city employees who are cleared of charges using city tax dollars has left taxpayers outraged.

Many have criticized Dixon for using taxpayers' money to pay her own legal fees. Others claim that the policy's main aim is to benefit the poorer city employees who cannot afford the

legal fees.

City offers \$320,000 to keep Theater open

The city has proposed to spend \$320,000 to keep the Senator Theatre open, on the condition that it is transformed into a nonprofit business.

Located on 5904 York Rd., the 70-year-old theater is a historic Baltimore icon and one of the few vintage movie houses that offers first-run films.

The owner of the Senator, Tom Kiefaber, has been struggling to fend off the rising debt that the theater has been accumulating over the years and has even put his house up for collateral on the many loans he has taken. Fifty-six-year-old Kiefaber has remained dedicated to the Senator and also operates the Rotunda Theatre.

The city, in an effort to prevent foreclosure, has offered no-interest loans from funds previously designated for community projects once Kiefaber deeds the theater to a nonprofit corporation.

He has planned to turn the

theater into a community meeting place where film screenings, concerts and public forums will be held.

Gov. Plans to eliminate public psychiatric center

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley recently released his budget for 2010 which includes a plan to close the Walter P. Carter Center, the only public psychiatric center in Baltimore.

The 51-person in-patient program will be closed first, and patients will be relocated to centers in neighboring counties.

Later, in July 2010, the entire facility will close, forcing the out-patient program, which serves many in the Baltimore community, to relocate as well.

This closure comes amidst a statewide effort to cut costs and close budget gaps and has not been met with significant opposition because the center is old and has fallen into disrepair.

Southern Illinois University plagiarism report may be plagiarized

Southern Illinois University composed and released a report on plagiarism in 2007.

The 17-page report contained a 139-word definition of "plagiarism."

However, upon analysis of the report, it was discovered that some passages, including the definition, were identical or very similar to the definition released by Indiana University in 2005.

The chairman of the commit-

tee that put together the Southern Illinois report, Arthur M. Adkins, stated that they were unaware of the extreme similarities of the two policies.

R. Gerald Nelms, associate professor of English at Southern Illinois, described the wording as "coincidental" and also declared that the committee did not knowingly copy the definition.

This is not the first time that Southern Illinois has had problems with instances of plagiarism.

Recession threatens Yale's endowment

A \$12 billion recession is projected on Yale's endowment over the next 10 years.

Like most of the nation's uni-



FILE PHOTO
Mayor Sheila Dixon is charged with stealing money and gift cards totaling more than \$18,000.

Nudity should be celebrated

While the female form hits the runway, it may not hit Hopkins

Every now and then, nudity descends upon the runway.

I don't mean the color. A noted trend during the Spring 2009 season was sheerness. Dresses and blouses were made of material that showed off more than just a girl's clavicle. Vivienne Westwood. Christopher Kane. John Galliano with his flowery frocks. Alessandra Facchineti for Valentino. Sonia Rykiel. All, in varying degrees, were using light and flowing fabric that provided scant coverings.

This might make your grandmother blush, but it is hardly new for the fashion world. Alber Elbaz had it in his Spring 2000 collection for Yves Saint Laurent. Alexander McQueen did it in fall 2004. And, my personal favorite, Raf Simons's Spring 2008 collection for Jil Sander.

Blushing over nudity is an American convention. In Europe, it isn't uncommon to see breasts on the cover of magazines being sold on the street, and it certainly isn't a big deal to see them on the runway. *New York Magazine* asked Dita Von Teese at the Sonia Rykiel afterparty in Paris if she could imagine sheer fabric becoming a street trend. She responded, "Will we be lucky enough to see American women trotting out and about in sheer blouses that show a hint of nipple? No. Will we see it in Paris at the chic bars and parties? You bet!"

It is not that Parisian women are more daring dressers than New York women. It is that they have a different attitude towards nudity. In Paris and London, women can see the

difference between tasteful and distasteful nudity. In the United States, many women don't see any difference at all.

Not to say that everything trotting on the runway during fashion week is the height of classiness or taste, because it's not, but what was seen with Jil Sander several seasons ago or Sonia Rykiel this year was sexy in a delicate and feminine way. Showing more skin both is and isn't the point. It's not a dare for the designer to show as many breasts as possible. Simons layered organza to create spun sugar creations in blues, pinks and orange. Some pieces were sheerer than others. Nothing had to be showing, the glossy lightness hinted at enough. Simons and the other designers are showing off and complimenting feminine beauty. Fashion is always at work with a woman's body, and at the best of times it celebrates the body wearing it.

I can imagine sheer clothing making an even bigger scandal on a college campus than it would at a New York restaurant. The college-aged youth is supposed to be the more accepting demographic, but the

cultural norms of the States that we have grown up with make it so that we are more accepting of a barely-there mini skirt than a sheer blouse. But a sheer blouse transforms a woman into a mod-



COURTESY OF WWW.STYLE.COM

Christopher Kane featured sheer in his Spring Collection.

Amanda Jean Boyle The Brick Runway



ern day Botticelli model, not a *Girls Gone Wild* wannabe.

In the transition from runway to real life, certain trends have to be toned down — the completely see-through dress with silver oscillations in John Galliano's collection would be questionable to wear without a bandeau and underwear — but with a slightly sheer blouse, a subtle show of the nipple is flirtatious and delightful. Even if the sheereness does not go that far, a light and floating blouse is perfect for the coming spring.

Unfortunately, fast food cul-

ture has spread to many Chinese restaurants in Baltimore, and even traveling north to Towson does not guarantee an authentic meal for Chinese New Year. So, somewhat reluctantly, we turn to what has been coined as Asian Fusion cooking, which attempts to legitimize the altering of traditional Chinese dishes on the basis of it being an "art."

P.F. Chang's is a national chain, and most would agree that they are fairly well known.

Its continued prosperity while other Asian knock-offs disappear indicates that it must have gotten something right.

So after donning a winter jacket and proper protection from a cold wintry night, three friends and I made the trip down to this Pratt Street establishment, across the street from ESPN Zone.

The spacious dining area with lanterns hanging from the ceiling invited us in, while a large mural of horses contrasted with an extensive wine rack on the adjacent wall.

The restaurant was bustling, no doubt about it. There was a certain amount of comfort to be had from a healthy noise level, indicating that those there were enjoying themselves enough to be open and free. A typical Chinese New Year dinner would be rather loud and raucous as well. Inside our cloth napkin were two forks, a knife and thankfully, a pair of chopsticks.

Though P.F. Chang's knows that its primary customers are non-Asians, it remains true to its roots. As a college student, it is difficult to find the time, ingredients and space to create such lavish dishes for such a momentous occasion, so those who do not head home for the weekend to enjoy the pleasures of home cooking are left to fend for themselves or journey out into the cold of winter to find a suitable restaurant close to campus.

Unfortunately, fast food cul-

Nian gao is a sticky rice pudding that can be cooked many different ways, though it is typically stir fried. The reason behind eating it actually involves the name of the food itself, which translates into "growing taller each year," or to grow more prosperous with each year.

Jiao zi, also referred to as "pot stickers" or "gyoza" by some, or more simply known as dumplings, resemble the gold ingots used as a Chinese currency thousands of years ago.

The name is the same sound as the earlier word used to describe paper money, and it actually refers to one-tenth of a Yuan (the Chinese unit of currency).

Finally, long noodles symbolize longevity, while whole fish, often steamed, are eaten to represent togetherness and abundance.

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Building a new community

Monday, after months of planning, a new fraternity was established on campus: Phi Delta Theta. The process of bringing this new fraternity to campus was transparent as well as compatible with the idea of Greek life, whose ultimate function is to promote community.

This process contrasted sharply with the process of bringing a new sorority to campus. This past semester, plans for a new sorority were rejected because the four sororities on campus had the authority to veto its founding. Thankfully, the process of setting up a new fraternity on campus does not contain such a ridiculous provision. Communities, including fraternities, are formed through the collective determination and vision of their members, not on the external and self-serving interests of those who view the community as competition.

With over 30 founding members, and several more surely to be added after this semester's rush, the fraternity has demonstrated that it is a viable and vibrant group. Consequently, this new fraternity should be seen by everyone on campus as a validation of students' ability to organize their own social networks as they see fit.

The fraternity, Phi Delta Theta (PDT), was formed by 31 so-called "founding fathers" and according to one of these members, Eric Shen, they seek to "attract other students who might not otherwise join Greek life."

The fraternity has actively attempted to differentiate itself from the 10 other pan-hellenic fraternities that already exist on campus by embracing their national no-alcohol policy in the fraternity house. The fact that PDT is using their umbrella group's mandate as an advertising tactic suggests that they will take their own policy more seriously than other Hopkins fraternities that have similar official policies which are, more often than not, ignored.

We advocate that this fraternity fulfill its promises to be different, not because we believe that their aim is necessarily better than those of the other fraternities already on campus. Rather, we believe that with 10 fraternities already here (and with their overall enrollment numbers trending downwards), it is PDT's prerogative to prove that it will provide a unique environment, and thus encourage the recruitment of students who would otherwise not participate in Greek life.

We cannot know overnight if Phi Delta Theta will prove a success. The founding members now have an opportunity to discover the potential of their vision. Surely, they deserve a chance.

A sailing SHIP

When the Sustainable Hopkins Infrastructure Program (SHIP) was initially created last spring, this page supported SHIP's ideas, but was highly skeptical of its ability to accrue funding and navigate the complex bureaucracy that is Hopkins.

Fortunately, our cynicism was largely unwarranted. In only several months after its founding, the program has been able to create a workable financial structure and has already begun to implement initiatives that are both environmentally friendly and cost effective.

So far, SHIP has been responsible for installing new energy-saving hand dryers in the library's bathrooms. While this initiative is relatively minor, it is nevertheless refreshing to see real progress.

This small change is supplemented by bigger ideas. SHIP has floated the possibility of initiatives such as replacing the campus's escort vans with more fuel-efficient vehicles, as well as installing more efficient toilets on campus. Even more impressively, SHIP's plan to build a new vegetable oil-powered power plant looks like it will soon be a reality.

SHIP has demonstrated their acute understanding that such initiatives can only happen if they are done in a pragmatic fashion. For example, they are aware that their proposal to switch from the current escort vans to more efficient ones is largely a matter of economics. According to Sean Murphy, the sophomore project manager of SHIP, "if we can replace [the escort vans] with more efficient vehicles, we can save a lot of money really fast."

Furthermore, SHIP has looked beyond the parameters of the University to best address their projects; they are even considering asking Maryland State's energy commission for additional funds for the escort van idea.

Under SHIP guidelines, the process for developing programs requires meeting certain criteria without being unnecessarily difficult. The proposal for a specific program must not interfere with SHIP's other and must, of course, have a positive environmental impact. As long as the proposal demonstrates how the plan will save the University money within seven years of its implementation. These qualifications promote the creation of programs and initiatives that will be both environmentally and economically sustainable.

We are now cautiously optimistic about SHIP's future successes. The energy and creativity of SHIP members appears to be matched by a willingness on the part of the University.

Anne Faber



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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and can not be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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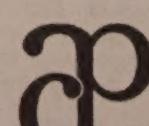
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OPINIONS

Welcome to Washington

Neil Albstein

A Losing Battle: Israel and International Opinion

On Dec. 27, 2008, Israel commenced airstrikes against the Hamas-controlled Gaza strip. Innocent civilians were given warning that they should evacuate the targets to minimize collateral damage. The strikes and the subsequent invasion were a response to the rocket and mortar attacks that Hamas has been perpetrating against Israel for years. A six-month cease-fire had temporarily (almost) stopped the attacks, but the expiration of the accord led to an immediate resumption of hostilities against Israel by Hamas, a terrorist organization shunned by much of the world, including Gaza's other neighbor, Egypt.

Israel, a secular Jewish state, has never been particularly popular with the rest of the world, with the notable exception of the United States, which has remained Israel's firm ally. And true to form, as soon as Israel's retaliation commenced, the international community began to express its displeasure. Naturally, Arab and Muslim countries in general condemned only Israel's actions, ignoring Hamas's guilt. Sadly predictable were the reactions of other nations. Most of them issued strong condemnations of Israel's action, followed by half-hearted demands that Hamas stop its bombardment of Israel.

More alarming than this political posturing is the increase in anti-Semitic attacks and demonstrations around the world. A protest in Amsterdam featured cries for Jews to be gassed. A protester in Canada complained to a TV reporter that "Hitler didn't do a good job." A Molotov cocktail was thrown into a synagogue in Chicago. And these responses only represent the tip of the iceberg.

In light of these attitudes, it is a comfort to those of us who support Israel to know that it will not kowtow to the wishes of the U.N. and the nations that continuously refuse to treat Israel as the sovereign nation that it is, with the full right to defend itself from attacks by hostile enemies who actively seek its destruction and take steps to bring it about.

Far from caving under international pressure, Israel took decisive action. After issuing warnings to civilians in target areas to get out, Israel unleashed a series of airstrikes geared at halting Hamas's attacks against Israel. These were primarily geared toward destroying military targets and smuggling tunnels that were being used to sneak weapons into Gaza through the closed borders of Israel and Egypt. When the airstrikes failed to stall Hamas, Israel added ground forces. Once Israel decided that it had accomplished enough, it declared a unilateral cease-fire and departed Gaza completely on its own accord, supplanting all doubt that Israel had any intention of permanently occupying the territory.

To summarize: A nation is under almost constant attack. It warns citizens of the area controlled by its enemies that it intends to attack. It does so, making all reasonable efforts to restrict its attacks to appropriate hostile targets. When its mission is completed it packs up and returns to the confines of its own borders. If any other nation were to take such a course of action, it would be praised for its efforts to minimize the ill effects of war on innocent civilians. However, since it is Israel, the international community screams about Israel's "crimes against humanity," while Hamas's rockets continue to be ignored by the court of international opinion, albeit with a few notable exceptions, including the United States, which itself is another favorite target of international criticism.

As time goes on, it becomes increasingly more clear that Israel will never be fully accepted by the rest of the world, and it appears that anti-Semitism is a major cause of the problem. From the moment of Israel's founding in 1948, it has toiled without support from much of the international community. Fortunately, Israel continues to not permit this situation to dissuade it from pursuing a course of action designed to maintain its safety and security. In its uniquely precarious position, surrounded by nations that either have been or currently are enemies to its very existence, toughness is a vital necessity. Furthermore, this international hatred of Israel and strong current of anti-Semitism in general, provides us with a reminder of exactly why Israel's continued existence is so important.

By PAYAL PATNAIK

Welcome to Washington! Grab a name tag! Make a friend! The call resonates in front of the Third Street tunnel as thousands of people trudged through the 7 a.m. blustering cold towards the Mall. A man with a wide grin sells Obama bobbleheads on the street corner while the woman next to him adorns her excited children in woolen cloaks before holding them close to her and beginning her journey toward the Capitol steps.

Never has there been such tangible excitement in Washington. Never have I seen this kind of hope in Washington. For a city that cultivates the most politically influential discourse, think tanks and idea machines, its occasional indifference to its home and its unsolvable issues are an appropriate motif for the underlying hypocrisy of this city.

Some of the people trudging along this tunnel are natives to a city that does not always shelter its own weak and weary, while still building its idealistic bridges and castles to shoulder the burdens of and save the downtrodden across the nation and around the world.

Despite being riddled with the same problems and much of the same hypocrisy, Washington somehow thinks that something magical will happen.

According to a 2006-2007 Department of Education report, three out of four D.C. public schools fail to meet Adequate Yearly Progress standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act. D.C. is also on its seventh superintendent in the past decade.

Last week's Inauguration showcased a multitude of people who have incredible faith that Washington will finally be the shining provider with President Barack Obama as the already lit kerosene lamp.

This hope marks a broader shift in the Washingtonian attitude. D.C. is ready for

Obama. They hailed him from their streets, waving flags and clutching themselves against the cold with the warmth of hope in their eyes.

Bush, in front of the millions that crowded onto the Washington mall, faced a series of boos and chants of "Na, Na, Na, Na, Hey Hey Hey Goodbye."

But how is Obama going to deliver to these people, his oft neglected neighbors who set so much in store in his promise for change?

It has been eight long years. D.C. cries out desperately for change. The tangible excitement did not resemble the normal anticipation of a new President.

The people of D.C. honestly think that Obama and his Cabinet will be able to solve the issues of D.C. so that the overlooked and forgotten walls of the homes and businesses of Washington may be showcased in the same shining, shimmering white as the Capitol, White House and Supreme Court buildings.

People leave the Inauguration and walk back to Metro stops and homes behind the Capitol, on the side that doesn't house the Mall, billion-dollar entities like the Smithsonian Museums and the pristine and gigantic buildings that the world knows as Washington.

Yet, in the aftermath of the Inauguration, while we all trudge back with wind-burnt faces, D.C. still contains failing schools, crime-ridden streets un-



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

inhabited by its world-renowned politicians, resulting in a disconnect between politicians and the people.

The election of our 44th President has exposed the underbelly of the Washingtonians. The Inauguration captivated the very moment of collective naïveté that almost all of Washington shared. There was that unifying moment in which the poverty-stricken liberals and the bleeding-heart sympathizers looked up at Obama with hope that tides would turn.

There are many entrances and exits into and away from Washington. Some of them are lined by embassies or majestic federal government buildings. Senators and policymakers, even the Vice President, all live along these roads. But there are others, the ones unfrequented by tourists and Congresspeople, that do not appear in pictures, movies or text-

books. There are those other streets that cause local Washingtonians to throw up their hands and wonder when the tides will turn.

These are the locals who shoulder the burden of having trash on their steps or trampled gardens after the millions of Americans have had their share of the nation's capitol.

Only a few blocks away from this scene, you have the best and brightest brainstorming how to improve the education in Iraq or some other country.

The sun always sets over two Wash-ington, even though for one night, the locals dare to believe that someday there will only be one.

Payal Patnaik is a sophomore Biomedical Engineering major from Rockville, Md. and is News and Features Editor.

BY LOGAN QUINN

College campuses may be getting a little hotter in 2010. After the wild success beach volleyball enjoyed during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the NCAA announced that it will consider adding newly designated "sand" volleyball as a sanctioned sport the year after I graduate. Unfortunately, I'm raucously excited that beach volleyball finally seems to have become mainstream, having been a fan since my early high school years. The carefree lifestyle, the casual morality, the bathing suits... Yes, please.

From its flipped-up visor and yellow tank-top infancy, beach volleyball culture has developed to give the unique sport a style all its own, almost to the point where it no longer resembles its more

Logan Quinn is a junior public health studies and political science major from Honolulu, Hawaii and is the Opinions Editor.

"When you go to an AVP event it's more like going to an all-day party than to a traditional sporting event."

structured indoor ancestor. Under the summer sun there are only two players per team — no subs and no coaches on the sidelines. And even if you're not a volleyball enthusiast, when you're outside in the sun and the sand, it's hard not to get caught up.

When you go to an American Volleyball Professionals (AVP) event, it's more like going to an all-day party than to a traditional sporting event. The suffocating nature of the indoor game seems to stifle individuality; with indoor there are six players and almost no one plays the entire rotation around. You can easily lose track of who is in the game and where they're playing.

Alternatively, beach volleyball owes everything to the character of the people playing the game. Kerri Walsh, Misty May, Todd Rodgers and Phil Dalhausser have become household names because of the exposure. During the Beijing Olympics, 60 million Americans tuned in to NBC nightly to watch one of the four American teams play. Beach volleyball was the most popular

sport during the 2008 games, eclipsing swimming for the first time in the history of viewer tracking. And Michael Phelps won eight gold medals!

Beach volleyball is hot right now, and why not? Name another sport where the rules *mandate* that you play barefooted. You won't. The game is just different, and maybe that's why we like it so much. Besides, it's the only sport in the world where the players, and often the fans, are often more scantily clad than the cheerleaders, men and women alike.

But the NCAA acceptance, if it ever happens, will not be without reservations. To begin, it will only be a women's sport, ignoring the fact that men indeed enjoy volleyball too. (As a side note and without passing judgment, Title IX while increasing women's varsity athletic participation in college by 456 percent, it has simultaneously resulted in a 21 percent decrease in male alternative sports availability. Which means the guys who play less popular sports are pretty much out of luck.) Also, the format of play and teams will have to be adjusted. Will they let coaches be on the sidelines during games? Will they allow subs? Will each school be allowed to field more than one team to encourage more participation?

All these questions and many more need to be addressed before the first satisfying spike can hit the sand, but one other relatively small issue is distracting the overwhelmingly male NCAA Board of Directors: uniforms.

It seems that the Board has a problem with the current AVP dress code and, in the spirit of chivalry, are worried about the young women who would be otherwise helpless to dress themselves in anything but a revealing bathing suit. Never mind that AVP standards currently allow women to wear shorts and a tank-top (the same standards, by the way, that it applies to men). And forget that the women in the Olympics we all watched chose to wear what they wore. Fear not under-protected and vulnerable young women of American college campuses, the NCAA BOD is here to make sure that you are not oppressed. What are they worried about? Exploitation of hot young freshmen coeds? The loss of traditional American moral values? Wake up NCAA Board of Directors; that train left the station well before the beach goddesses of today started decreasing clothing and increasing tanning oil. I'm sure I'm not the only one who doesn't want to lose the bikinis. To be honest, I'd even be willing to play in one if it meant I could play too.

By PRATEIK DALMIA

Historic is the buzz word surrounding international celebrity and U.S. President Barack Obama's inauguration — fittingly the day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Obama's story is monumental and historic not only because it is proof that "the American dream endures," as First Lady Michelle Obama says, but also because he is America's, you guessed it, first African-American President. However, in our search for becoming a more civilized and just society, as Obama has been known to say, "We have a lot of work to do."

Nonetheless, this day is perhaps most meaningful and uplifting for the older generations who saw America progress from the gloomy days of segregated schools and Jim Crow to *Brown v. Board of Education* to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and finally to Inauguration Day 2009 and Barack Obama.

Many ask what this means for America? The media and many Obama supporters seem to believe that his inauguration marks the fulfillment of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream that his "four

Still Miles From the M.L.K. Dream

little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

While I admit that a tear or two might have found its way down my cheek as NBC announced America's first black president and a united America stood up in unanimous cheer, I quickly wiped those tears off and rolled up my sleeves because I realized that there is still work to do.

I am not talking about policy work, because I don't stand on the same side of the aisle as Obama on that matter, but social work — so to speak.

The fact is that while the election of President Obama is evidence of progress for race relations in America, we are still far from becoming a color-blind nation. As Martin Luther King Jr.'s son said, "Though it carries us further down the path toward equality, Barack Obama's election does not render my father's dream realized."

The importance of realizing the dream goes without saying. The idea of judging someone on something that they are born into by cosmic chance is horrifying and repulsive. Yet we do it every day, and until we confront it we cannot overcome it.

Every day we reveal our prejudices by stereotyping or making simple generalizations based on skin color. How many times have you heard race come up during the campaign? The very fact that Obama's race has become such an issue is proof that we are not judging strictly on "the content of character."

Vice President Joe Biden himself, Obama's right-hand man, is a two-time perpetrator of this rampant crime. In 2006 he told an Indian that "you cannot go to a 7-Eleven or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent... I'm not joking." During the campaign he said of Obama: "You got the first African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy."

There is not much truth to either of Joe Biden's comments. It is most likely that Biden has inadvertently associated Indians with 7-Eleven from watching too many episodes of *The Simpsons*. If anything, it only covers up our prejudices and hinders us from genuinely acknowledging and overcoming them.

And Jesse Jackson, Shirley Chisholm, Carol Moseley Braun and Al Sharpton are proof that the latter comment is also "historically inaccurate," as Obama says.

Joe Biden is not alone in making such prejudiced generalizations; many of us have imitated Joe Biden's foul before, whether audibly or not. In truth, it is not a foul but something deeper within us that we need to confront and conquer. Simply being politically correct is not the solution.

What this campaign has revealed is that the only person in this country who actually tries to live by the MLK dream on a daily basis is Obama himself, who avoided running a race campaign. While Obama might realize the MLK dream, America does not. That is change that we need to believe in.

"I quickly wiped those tears off and rolled up my sleeves because I realized that there is still work to do."

Prateik Dalmia is a freshman international studies major from Novi, Mich.

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Anyone, even a member of our own family, could need blood. Donating blood together through the American Red Cross makes us feel good. We believe it's the right thing to do. Will you please give blood too?



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Type O and other blood type donors needed at the Homewood Campus Blood Drive, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 10 and 11, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Glass Pavilion. (last donors taken at 5:45).

The drive commemorates Dr. Charles Drew, pioneering African-American physician, scientist and inventor who developed blood plasma processing, storage and transfusion therapy.

To address today's need for diversity in the bone marrow donor pool and increase the likelihood that all patients can find a life-saving match, bone marrow donor pool registration will take place at the drive on February 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and February 11, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. A blood donation is not required to register.

**To schedule an appointment online, go to www.jhu.edu/outreach/blooddrive
For more info, email jblack1@jhu.edu or call 410-516-6060.**

THE B SECTION

Arts & Entertainment • Science & Technology • Your News-Letter • Cartoons • Calendar • Sports

JANUARY 29, 2009

TM
inc.

The colorful world of
a tattoo convention,
pg. B3



Forget your earplugs?

Don't worry about it.

Research
suggests
you might
not need
them

pg. B6



INSIDE
B SECTION



SPORTS

• Sick of the same old Superbowl? Check out these crazy sporting events that will keep you laughing way after kick-off, B10.

CALENDAR JAN. 29 - FEB. 4

Poe's Bicentennial Birthday Bash

Jan. 19, 2009 marked the 200th birthday of Edgar Allan Poe. To commemorate this historic milestone, the city of Baltimore is hosting Nevermore 2009, a yearlong celebration of the life and works of one of Baltimore's most famed residents. The year will be filled with a variety of events, including birthday celebrations, lectures, wine tastings, art exhibitions, theatrical performances, special tours and more.

On Saturday, toast Poe's 200th birthday while enjoying a rare exhibition of Poe artifacts along with a number of special performances. At 7 p.m. the festivities begin with an Edgar Allan Poe tribute by noted actor John Astin of "The Addams Family" fame. Mr. Astin will present a spellbinding hour of Poe's most beloved works interspersed with comments and observations on Poe's life. A theatrical performance, "Some Words with a Mummy," will allow spectators to witness Poe's tale of a scientific experiment gone awry. See a mummy brought back to life through electricity and the mayhem it causes



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Art around Westminster Hall often depicts Poe with a raven, signifying its role in Poe's poetry.

Campus events

Thursday, Jan. 29

7:30 p.m. Anthony S. Pitch
Author Anthony S. Pitch will be discussing and signing copies of his latest book *They Have Killed Papa Dead!*, a fascinating account of the assassination of Lincoln. Barnes & Noble JHU Book Store will be sponsoring this event. Contact Neil Ferguson at bookstore@hd.jhu.edu for more information. Admission is free.

Friday, Jan. 30

3 p.m. Nadine Haobsh — Confessions of a Beauty Addict
Beauty editor and blogger Nadine Haobsh will be signing copies of her new book *Confessions of a Beauty Addict* and offering beauty tips. Barnes & Noble JHU Book Store will be sponsoring this event. Contact Neil Ferguson at bookstore@hd.jhu.edu for more information. Admission is free.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

4 p.m. Anthropology Colloquium
Anthropology Colloquium presents Sylvain Perdigon presenting "Palestinians Refugees in Lebanon and the New Studies of Kinship: Elements for an Alternative History of Skepticism." The lec-

ture will be given in Macaulay, room 400. Admission is free. Contact Melody Walker at mwalker@jhu.edu for more information.

Local events

Thursday, Jan. 29

12 p.m. Baltimore Restaurant Week 2009

Upscale restaurants join forces again for another week's worth of pseudo-affordable dining options. Lunch costs \$20.09, and dinner costs \$30.09. Participating restaurants include Alonso's, Babalu Grill, Bertha's, The Black Olive, Blue Agave, Blue Sea Grill, Brewer's Art, Cafe Hon, Gertrude's, James Joyce, Lebanese Taverna, Local Hombre, Mex, Oceanaire, Paz, Roy's and Sotto Sopra. The winter restaurant week ends Sunday. Visit <http://www.baltimorerestaurantweek.com/> for more information.

7:30 p.m. "Dancing With The Stars" Live

Now that the Dancing with The Stars season has ended, watch your favorites perform live at the Verizon Center on 601 F St. N.W. in D.C. Lance Bass, Lacey Schwimmer, Toni Braxton and many more will perform live on this tour. Tickets start at \$53. Visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com> or call 202-628-3200 for ticket information.

Friday, Jan. 30

7 p.m. Aural States Fest

AurulStates.com is throwing itself a party and you're invited. Celebrate the Charm City-based music blog's birthday with performances by a handful of local bands, including Arboretum, Wye Oak, Lo Moda, Small Sur and more. Tickets are \$10. Sonar, located on 407 E. Saratoga St., will be hosting the party. Visit

with the doctors who raised him from the dead. The evening also includes a musical tribute to Poe by soloist Paula McCabe from the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. A sparkling apple cider toast to Poe will be conducted by Jeff Jerome from the Poe House and Museum. Even Bicentennial Poe T-shirts and calendars will be on sale.

On Sunday, many of the same festivities will occur starting around 4:30 p.m. In addition to the events, the celebration will hold a theatrical performance of "Hop Frog," Poe's chilling tale of revenge, complete with special effects, life-size puppets and live actors. A cake in the shape of Poe's coffin will be raffled off at the conclusion of the Sunday program.

The birthday celebration will be held in Westminster Hall on 519 W. Fayette St. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Visit <http://www.poebicentennial.com/tickets.html> to purchase tickets online. Toast Poe's 200th birthday with probably the most morbid, yet fascinating parties around.

—Rachael Tillman

7:30 p.m. I Am My Own Wife
Everyman Theatre on 1727 N. Charles St. in Station North presents Doug Wright's eclectic, one-man play about an East German transvestite, Charlotte Von Mahlsdorf, who survived the Nazi regime. Bruce Nelson plays over 40 characters, who each seeks to examine his role in post-war Germany. Tickets range from \$18 to \$38. Shows will continue on Wednesday through Sunday until Feb. 22. Visit <http://www.everymantheatre.org/> for more information.

9 p.m. Guitar Hero Contests

The Greene Turtle Sports Bar and Grille in Fells Point gives karaoke night a run for its money with its induction of Guitar Hero Thursdays. Participants can battle for prizes, honor and an opportunity of a grand prize of \$100. The Greene Turtle is located on 722 S. Broadway. Visit <http://www.greene-turtle.com/> for more information.

<http://auralstates.com/2008/12/aural-states-fest-2009-birthday-bash.html> for more information.

7 p.m. The English Beat

The London-based band revitalizes ska with the distinct stylings of lead vocals and guitarist Dave Wakeling. There will also be performances by Bad Manners and The Pietasters. Rams Head Live!, on 20 Market Place, is hosting the show. Tickets are \$27.50 in advance and \$30 at the door. Visit <http://tickets.ramsheadlive.com/> for more information.

9 p.m. '80s Retro Party

The Depot Night Club in Station North on 1728 N. Charles St. implores you to save all your retro clothes. Instead of giving them away, wear them on Fridays at the Depot, where you can dance to all your favorite '80s tunes. Admission is free.

9 p.m. Trixie and Monkey present

The Ottobar in Charles Village hosts some of Trixie Little's and the Evil Hate Monkey's friends from New York. Nightlife celebrities like the host Mr. Murray Hill — "the hardest-working middle-age man in show business" will provide burlesque shenanigans, entertainment and acrobatics. Tickets are \$13. The Ottobar is on 2549 N. Howard St. Visit <http://www.theottobar.com/> for more information.

9 p.m. Valencia

The Ottobar, located 2549 N. Howard St., hosts Valencia, Houston Calls, Artist vs. Poet, Coast to Coast and The Downtown Fiction.

Valencia's hyped up punk vibe has transported from the Warped Tour in Philadelphia to the Fuji Rock Festival in Japan.

Tickets are \$10. Visit <http://www.theottobar.com/> for more information.

5:30 p.m. Maryland Masti 2009

The University of Maryland hosts an intercollegiate Indian dance competition featuring the top garba/raas teams from universities around the nation competing for cash prizes.

The competition kicks off in the Hippodrome Theatre at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center on 12 N. Eutaw St. Tickets range from \$17 to \$27. Visit <http://www.marylandmasti.com/> for more information.

6 p.m. Hotspur Blackout Party

Sonar hosts a party in the dark. Protocol calls for black attire and preparation for a sensory overload. Performers include Lion of Ido, Jealousy Curve, The Carbon Kin and Halfway to the Moon. Admission is \$10. Sonar is located downtown on 407 E. Saratoga St. Visit <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com/> for more information.

9:30 a.m. Alaska Immersed

The Patterson/Creative Alliance presents "Alaska Immersed." If you think it's cold here, wait until you see this exhibit of mural-sized black and white prints by Kate Lynn Morrill. Admission is free. The Patterson/Creative Alliance is located on 3134 Eastern Ave. Visit <http://www.creativealliance.org/> for more information.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

5 p.m. Live Jazz

Join Club 347, the self-proclaimed "Smoothest Place in Town," every Tuesday night to enjoy some live jazz. Admission is free. Club 347 is located downtown on 347 N. Calvert St. Visit <http://www.club347.com/> for more information.

Wednesday, Feb. 3

7 p.m. The Black Keys

The virtuosic duo brings its raw, bare-bones blues-rock back to Charm City, specifically to Rams Head Live! Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$27 the day of the show. Rams Head Live! is located on 20 Market Place. Visit <http://tickets.ramsheadlive.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=279> for ticket information.

MOVIE OPENINGS

The Reader

Opening at the Charles Theatre

Friday, Jan. 30

(410) 727-FILM or <http://www.thecharles.com> for showtimes

How far would you go
to protect a secret?



KATE WINSLET RALPH FIENNES

The Reader

Unlock the mystery.

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Nearly a decade after his affair with an older woman came to a mysterious end, law student Michael Burk re-encounters his former lover as she defends herself in a war-crime trial.

9 p.m. Baltimore's Premiere

Belly Dancing Show

Cazbar, known for its Turkish and Mediterranean cuisine, presents belly dancing shows every Friday. Enjoy an exotic meal complemented by fascinating and colorful dancing. Reservations are recommended. Cazbar is located on 316 N. Charles St. Visit <http://www.cazbarbaltimore.com/> for more information.

Saturday, Jan. 31

3 p.m. Valencia

The Ottobar, located 2549 N. Howard St., hosts Valencia, Houston Calls, Artist vs. Poet, Coast to Coast and The Downtown Fiction. Valencia's hyped up punk vibe has transported from the Warped Tour in Philadelphia to the Fuji Rock Festival in Japan.

Tickets are \$10. Visit <http://www.theottobar.com/> for more information.

5:30 p.m. The Pretenders

The 9:30 Club presents The Pretenders, complete with front-woman Chrissie Hynde, a now-member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The band has evolved their sound considerably in recent years. Their new tour and album displays a tendency to less new age punk and more rockabilly, while still relying on the Pretender's rock solid core. Tickets are \$45. The club is on 815 V St. N.W. in D.C. Visit <http://www.930.com/> for more information.

8 p.m. Passion Pit with Paper Route

Indie kids Passion Pit could be ready to take over the airwaves. MTV News profiled the band, and the less-than-a-year-old synth-poppers have already scored slots opening for Girl Talk and Death Cab for Cutie. Now, debuting the stage at the Ottobar, located on 2549 N. Howard St., the band starts off their tour promoting their upcoming album. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of. Visit http://www.missiontix.com/moreinfo.cfm?Product_ID=7269 for more information.

6 p.m. Hotspur Blackout Party

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Tuesday, Feb. 3

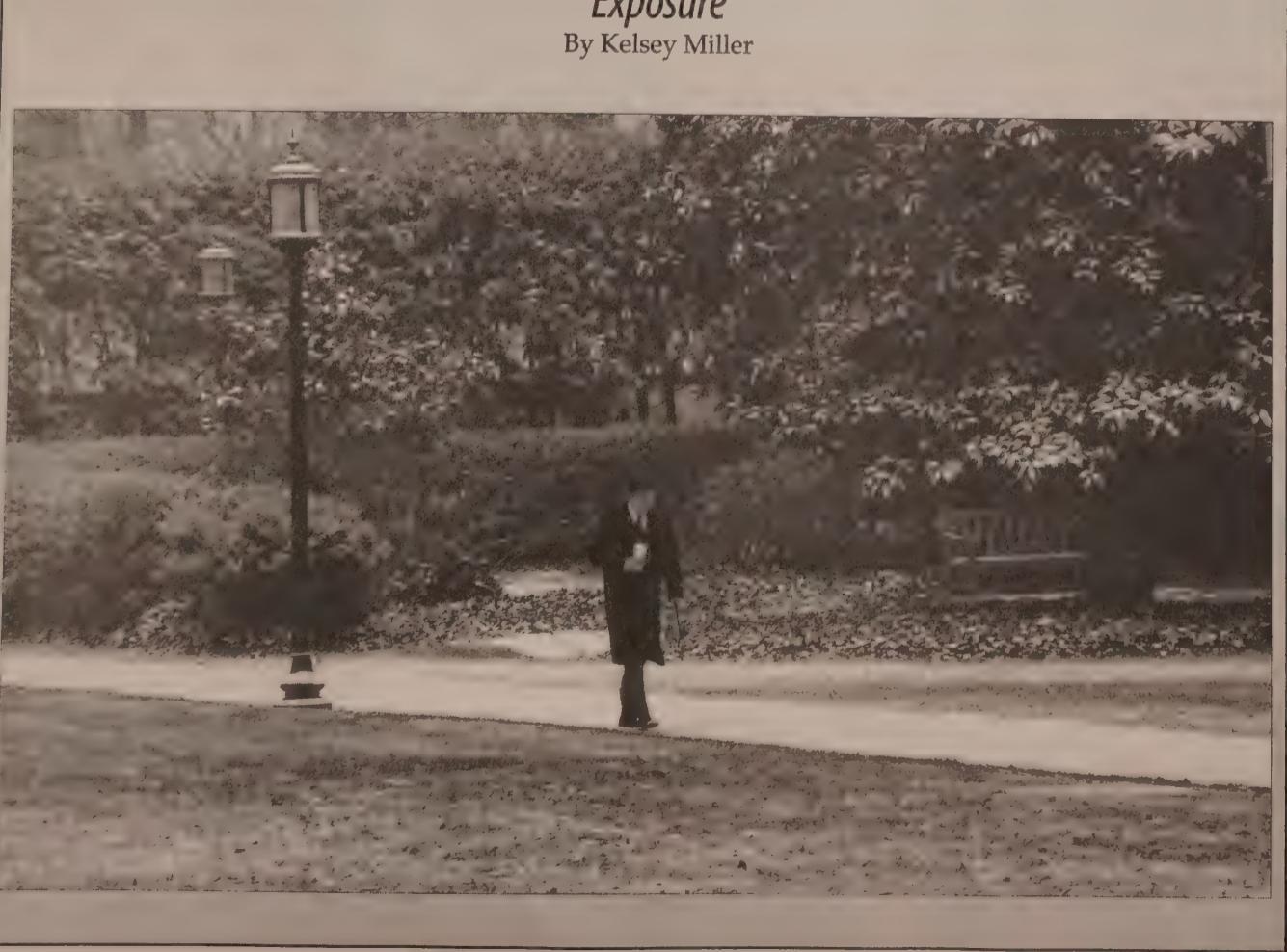
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Exposure
By Kelsey Miller

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

“Granny tranny” takes the stage at Everyman

By CHRISTINA WARNER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Everyman Theatre's newest play, *I Am My Own Wife*, takes the stage in an unconventional and slightly unsettling manner in a one-man play about a “granny tranny.” If you think it can't get any more unusual, just consider that the only actor also plays 34 other characters.

Lifestyles that deviate from the norm have proved to be a favorite of playwright Doug Wright. Even those who are not theater aficionados may have heard of his award-winning play about Marquis de Sade which inspired the 2000 film *Quills* with Kate Winslet and Geoffrey Rush. Similarly, *I Am My Own Wife* is just as equally focused on one of history's more interesting characters.

Although not quite as famous as de Sade, Charlotte von Mahlsdorf is as colorful a character as any. She is described as “the single most eccentric individual the Cold War ever birthed.” However, in actuality, she is a German transvestite who managed to escape persecution from the homophobic Communists and Nazis. Upon hearing of her story, Wright became acquainted with von Mahlsdorf and then made her the central character in his play.

Interestingly enough, Wright wrote himself as one of the many characters in the play. By doing this, he makes it very clear to the audience as to why he found von Mahlsdorf so fascinating: von Mahlsdorf became the hero he never had in his childhood as a homosexual in Texas.

On stage, von Mahlsdorf (Bruce Nelson) appears with an entrance that would have demanded attention even if the stage weren't empty. The costume is simple: a black sweater, black skirt and black kerchief that are all accented by a strand of pearls.

However, costumes do not have the ability to instantly transform the actor into whatever he or she is portraying. In this case, it is not the skirt that makes Nelson a man who has



COURTESY OF STAN BAROUH
Bruce Nelson portrays Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a German transvestite, in Everyman Theatre's newest play *I Am My Own Wife*.

chosen to be a woman but rather his mannerisms. His portrayal of von Mahlsdorf is complete with flourishes and gestures that are generally indicators of femininity.

In the opening scene, von Mahlsdorf speaks to the audience as if she is giving one of her famous museum tours, demonstrating her affinity for the furniture she has collected.

Describing each piece with the affection one normally has for a family member, von Mahlsdorf lifts miniature replicas of the furniture from a small box resting on a table.

With the exception of this box and miniature furniture, the set is minimalist. Real furniture looms in the corners of the stage but rarely does any action take place in the vicinity of it.

The plot is mainly told through a series of interviews that Wright conducts with von Mahlsdorf. She nostalgically recounts the history of the gay bar and nightclub she ran in the basement of her house and of her alleged involvement with the Stasi.

Nelson becomes different characters in order to create the world outside Wright and von Mahlsdorf's interviews. There

are no announcements for when Nelson switches characters but never once is the audience confused as to who he is supposed to be. Simple changes in posture or more complicated changes in accents help to clarify the different characters.

As the characters change, the audience is constantly transported between the late 19th century and nearly present day. Thankfully, as the time period shifts, so does the gravity of the subject matter. For all the conversations that focus on oppression, there are also many scenes that provide excellent comic relief.

Many jokes focus on language barriers that come from the inability to speak German. If you were expecting the humor to be a little more inappropriate in a play about a transvestite, don't worry. There are still plenty of quips that focus on such matters as near encounters with S&M in a public restroom.

The logistics of the Pulitzer award-winning play are intimating for any playhouse to attempt. However, Everyman Theatre successfully pulls off *I Am My Own Wife* with poise and talent. Nelson's interpretation of von Mahlsdorf is not only powerful but also impressive. Not only does he spectacularly switch personas and accents but he is also able to recite hundreds of lines without flaw.

I Am My Own Wife is probably not the best play to attend if you are not “drama-inclined.” There is no action except for Nelson walking around the stage. There are no interpersonal interactions except for Nelson's transitions between characters. For some, this may be a deterrent.

However, *I Am My Own Wife* will undoubtedly impress those who are willing to experience a different kind of play. This bizarre play is sure to tell a story that you haven't heard before.

I Am My Own Wife is playing through Feb. 22 at the Everyman Theatre in Station North. Tickets are \$18-\$38 at www.everyman-theatre.org.

While we talked, many people came up to Hall asking if they could take pictures of him. He graciously obliged, continuing to talk with me. I was most curious about the pain level of his many tattoos, specifically those on his face. Surprisingly, he told me that “some of it wasn't pretty painful” but that the top of the lip was one of the worst.

Most impressively, Hall said that “[he] tattooed [himself] for as long as he could reach it.” He also had a roommate who, in exchange for room and board, tattooed him for seven years.

It was fortunate that I hadn't finished reading *City Paper* article on Hall before I talked to him or I may have been too intimidated. In addition to his tattooed body suit, he has also had

woman that she had dropped her money. Thankfully, because of my intrepid journalist skills (or rather, my eavesdropping), I bent down to give it back to her and then struck up a conversation with him.

Unlike me, Hall was not unfamiliar with the convention. He had been to the convention the previous year. “It's pretty much the same,” he told me. “I think there's three times as many neck tattoos as last year, though.”

Although now his body is almost completely covered in tattoos, Hall told me that “[he] was secret for so long” and had no tattoos past where his work suit reached. Although tattoos aren't nearly as taboo as they once were, they are still a hazard in the professional world. Hall's professional world entailed working as a city planner for Baltimore. But along with his retirement came the ability to finish his full body suit.

From Friday to Sunday, the ballrooms of the hotel were filled with hundreds of tattooed fans shuffling past the many vendors who attended. Tattoo shops and their world-famous tattoo artists were the most commonplace vendors, but there were many booths dedicated to selling tattoo paraphernalia and clothing. In my winter coat, I almost felt out of place; people were not dressed for the January weather, but rather to show off their tattoos. And in many women's cases, this required wearing almost nothing at all.

Of all the people I met, Jim Hall was one of the friendliest — and most famous. I saw him as I attempted to take pictures of the moving sea of people and then nonchalantly tried to point him out to my friends.

Earlier that morning, I had seen a picture of him on *City Paper*. I desperately wanted to introduce myself to him, but he always seemed to be in a conversation with one person or another. Eventually, because I was standing (or rather, lurking) in the same area, I was able to grab a few minutes of time with him when Hall pointed out to a

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Sophomore Ryan Decker on a lucky streak as Lucky Strike

By GREG SGAMMATO
Staff Writer

For some musicians, getting signed to a label is only a dream.

For Ryan Decker, however, it's a goal already reached. And he's only a sophomore.

Decker, aka DJ Lucky Strike, was recently signed to Environmental Aesthetics, an up-and-coming independent label based in the Baltimore-Washington area.

He is also a student at Hopkins, and many readers may already be familiar with him; he has played shows around campus and at the Ottobar on several occasions.

Recently he talked to the News-Letter about his new album and his story so far.

N-L: How long have you been DJing?
Decker: I've been DJing and doing sound collage for about two years.

N-L: What got you into the field?
Decker: I started after going to a Girl Talk concert. I used to play a lot of drums in high school, so this seemed like a cool way to continue doing music.

N-L: Getting on any record label is an amazing accomplishment for a sophomore. How did your signing come about?
Decker: Environmental Aesthetics is a pretty new indie label. I knew a few people who started

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LUCKY STRIKE THA THESIS

COURTESY OF RYAN DECKER

Decker's album, just released on an indie label, features Girl Talk-esque sound collages.

Mummified unwraps the mysteries of ancient Egypt

By JON TORRES
Staff Writer

Mummified, a new exhibit at the Walters Art Museum running through November, features ancient Egyptian artifacts depicting the process and result of mummification.

Ancient Egyptians performed an elaborate ceremony to prepare the dead for their journey into the afterlife. While some modern perspectives view their ideas about death as an obsession, the Egyptians considered it the beginning of a spiritual journey.

Mummification was only one aspect of Egyptian religious life, and the exhibit does well in displaying lesser known rituals like animal sacrifices. This exhibit will not magically transport you to an ancient, mystical land that helped birth civilization. For that, you'll have to pay upwards of \$1,500 for a flight to Cairo. But the exhibit does reveal a great deal of knowledge about the ancient Egyptians' views of death.

A healthy appetite for Egyptian history would be needed to read through the entire exhibit. However, there are more than enough neat items to pique interest for the average museum-goer. The computer terminals near the entrance to the exhibit that summarize the history of mummification proved very helpful. In short, mummification originated in the desert around Egypt when people noticed the preservative properties of the sand on the dead. The first process may have been developed as early as 4000 B.C., and the first mummies were simply wrapped in cloth and buried in the sand. Highly advanced methods were developed over the centuries. Visceral organs were removed and placed in ceremonial containers called canopic jars for use in the afterlife (the brain was discarded). The linen became coated with plant resins and natural salts were used to dehydrate the body before embalming.

The main attraction showcases images of the Walters's mummy collected via the newly conceived

use of CT scans. The centerpiece, a mummified young girl, is on display with coffin casing and numerous burial accessories. Additional scans were performed on other mummies in the exhibit, all of which were animals (it turns out some of those cool animal statues are not just statues).

The reliquaries house the remains of once-honored animals that were associated with a particular deity, some showcasing impressive sculpting. These animals were worshiped throughout their lives and bred to be sacrificed. The reliquaries house the remains of once-honored animals that were associated with a particular deity, some showcasing impressive sculpting. These animals were worshiped throughout their lives and bred to be sacrificed.

The scan images accompanying each mummy are quite fascinating, if a tad morbid when bones become visible upon closer inspection. Many objects that the Egyptians buried with their dead are displayed as well. A memorable piece was the shawabti figurine, which slightly resembles Russian nested dolls. These figures were meant to carry out the daily labors of the person in the afterlife, so the wealthier a person, the more figurines they had (up to 365).

Another theme of the exhibit concerns the popular culture and lore surrounding mummies. Mummies were believed to contain incredible medicinal power, particularly throughout the 17th century and even into the early 20th century. The display even contains a pharmacy advertisement for cases of mummy powder. A surge in interest during the 17th century by European collectors created a market for fake mummies. These fabrications became common and some were convincing enough to be



COURTESY OF THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM
The new exhibit at the Walters embraces an innovative use of CT-scan technology that offers archaeologists and museum-goers a different, deeper perspective on ancient-Egyptian mummies.

considered authentic. Enough were produced that mummies even became a party theme, as shown by a flyer advertising an uninviting party.

The rooms housing the exhibit were lackluster. The only impressive décor was the entrance, a scaled-down gateway to a temple complete with hieroglyph-covered walls. The dark gray shade of the walls inspired sleep more than curiosity. The low lighting did not help matters when it came to reading the blurbs about each object.

However, the displays were featured prominently with adequate lighting. One room featured mostly religious statues, a second featured daily tools and accessories and the third held the human mummy itself.

The first two rooms were a bit dull, though no one would have noticed because I was the only person (minus the guard) viewing the exhibit at the time. This is a shame, as the Walters currently features free general admission,

is a block from the Peabody stop on the JHMI shuttle and is simply gorgeous. A word of advice: Enter via the Charles Street side. The main entrance does not contain anything notable and the hallways used to access the exhibits hardly befit the marvel of the museum proper.

Mummified may feel a bit creepy, a bit morbid or even a bit moldy (I kid), but these qualities pale in comparison to the humbling power of a millennia-old mummy. The impact cannot even be grasped by people in the moment, as we tend to just pass by and glance, thinking, “Wow, that's old.” The girl was buried thousands of years ago, and her sarcophagus and burial accessories are still intact! Do you know what your iPhone will be in thousands of years? Or you, for that matter? Dust, and hopefully still terrestrial and not the cosmic kind. Taken in this light, the Walters's *Mummified* is truly a wonder to behold.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

‘09 movies promise to win laughs and awards

By SARAH SALOVAARA
For the News-Letter

Hollywood tends to follow a specific formula when it comes to movie releases. The first eight or so months of the year provide audiences with blockbusters, light, fluffy escapism and little substance. By the time September and October roll around, the studios begin to roll out the big wigs for awards season. So far, 2009 appears to be no different. Still, between films like *The Pink Panther Deux* and *Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experiences*, there appear to be a few promising movies slated to premiere in the upcoming months, enough to please several different palates.

Adventureland and *I Love You, Man*, two comedies of what is now often dubbed "the Judd Apatow genre," come out in March. The former, from *Superbad* director Greg Mottola, is about a college graduate (Jesse Eisenberg) in the summer of 1987 who is forced to trade his Eurotrip for a job at the local amusement park. Unexpected romance and good times ensue. In *I Love You, Man*, Paul Rudd becomes engaged to Rashida Jones but has no one to serve as his best man — enter Jason Segel.

March also sees the release of *The Class*, a French film about high school students and the relationships they share. The film boasts the title of Palme d'Or winner at last year's Cannes Film Festival.

State of Play, based on the BBC mini-series, tracks a group of investigative reporters as they try to uncover the story behind the murder of a congressman's mistress. The film was directed by Kevin Macdonald (*The Last King of Scotland*) and features an expansive ensemble ranging from Helen Mirren and Russell Crowe to Rachel McAdams and Jason Bateman.

Then, of course, in the warmer months, we get into popcorn-flick season starring *Star Trek*, *G.I. Joe*, *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* and so on. Shaking up this group is the long-awaited *Bruno*. Perhaps the least recognized of Sacha Baron



Sydney Fife (Jason Segel) bonds with new friend Peter Kaven (Paul Rudd) in 2009's upcoming comedy *I Love You, Man*.

Cohen's alter egos, Bruno is a flamboyant Austrian fashion guru/TV reporter. Bruno made headlines a few months ago when he spontaneously joined the models on the catwalk at a fashion show in Madrid. That incident, along with Baron Cohen's success with *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*, might give any audiences unfamiliar with *Da Ali G Show* an idea of what to expect.

Rian Johnson, director of the critically condemned but excellent neo-noir *Brick*, also has a new film that will hit theaters this summer called *The Brothers Bloom*, starring Mark Ruffalo and Adrien Brody as a pair of con artists.

Moving along to fall and heavy-hitter territory, Mark Ruffalo will also be starring in a new Martin Scorsese 'picture' entitled *Shutter Island*. The film, which also stars Scorsese's new golden boy, Leonardo DiCaprio, follows two men after they are summoned to investigate the disappearance of a murderer (Michelle Williams) from an asylum for the criminally insane. The film is based upon the novel by Dennis Lehane. Spoilers ahead, so look away if you haven't seen/read the aforementioned: Lehane is big on disappearances, and they usu-

ally don't end well. His works are also loaded with red herrings and twists and turns, so this should be a good one.

Another adaptation expected late this year is Peter Jackson's *The Lovely Bones*. It will be interesting to see how Jackson handles the material, as the novel is told from the perspective of a murdered teenager up in heaven. The movie stars Mark Wahlberg, Rachel Weisz, Sam Worthington and Saoirse Ronan.

Ronan received an Oscar nomination last year for her work in *Atonement*. Her *Atonement* costar, Keira Knightley, has finally removed the "period pieces only" clause from her contract to star in a modern romantic drama as one-half of a couple dealing with past relationships and temptations abroad. The film, entitled *Last Night*, also stars the attractive Guillaume Canet.

Julie Taymor, visionary director of *Across the Universe* and *Titus*, returns to Shakespeare with *The Tempest*. There's a catch, however.

Helen Mirren will reign as Prospero — whose name has been changed to Prospera to reflect the gender swap. Just because the casting is technically inaccurate doesn't mean the nominative gender agreement should be. The film

stars an eclectic cast, also including Djimon Hounsou, Chris Cooper, Alan Cumming and Russell Brand.

And because Hollywood is so very into being derivative, yet another play — or rather, musical adaptation — is to be released in December. *Nine* is based upon the Broadway musical of the same name. The musical is to be directed by Rob Marshall (*Chicago*) and follows an Italian film director and his dealings with the women in his life. Relationships — definitely a common theme this year. Now, because this is Hollywood, only one person in the principal cast is actually Italian, but the cast is still one of the most impressive in years, featuring the likes of Daniel Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz, Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench and Sophia Loren. That's five Oscar winners, maybe six if Cruz wins this year for *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*. I'm predicting this movie cleans up the 2010 awards season.

So there you have it: a handful of the big movie releases for the upcoming year. Granted, I'm sure lots of great indies will emerge at some point or another out from under the radar, but until then — not too shabby.

Tattoo convention proves painfully entertaining

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several other procedures done including a penis extension and the addition of three extra testicles. But despite these body modifications that may make most people shake their heads, Hall is one of the most genuinely friendly people I have met in Baltimore.

The convention wasn't just filled with the stereotypical young, tattooed hoodlums who refuse to work for "the man." Attendees were all shapes, sizes, ages and colors, and from all walks of life. Next to the 20-something girl getting a flower tattooed on her foot was a 70-something grandmother getting a portrait of her son inked on her breast. It was a unique type of celebration to see so many different people come together to appreciate a form of art that has only recently become more popularly accepted.

Surprisingly, the convention was advertised as being family friendly. In fact, admission for kids was free. I probably would have agreed with that statement had I not sat in on Saturday's tattoo competitions. With the exception of a not-so-accidental "wardrobe malfunction," it was fairly tame. However, the host's announcements were loud and expletive-ridden.



Contestants wait to be judged in a competition at the Baltimore Tattoo Convention.

ARTIST
Bon Iver
ALBUM
Blood Bank-EP
LABEL
Jagjaguwar
RELEASED
Jan. 20, 2009

It was way back in February of 2008 that Bon Iver released their first album, *For Emma, Forever Ago*, to a snowy swell of acclaim and success. The band's lead singer-songwriter, Justin Vernon, decided to seclude himself in the Wisconsin woods for three wintry months to do some deep soul-searching, and this album was the beautiful baby that came out of it. For a lot of people, the tale of how the album came to be was nearly as captivating as the album itself. The intimacy of the songs came through in the fact that Vernon wrote, played, sang, recorded and produced almost the entire album by himself, without a studio.

And now, Bon Iver has returned with full mellow and introspective vengeance in the release of their new EP, *Blood Bank*. Well, not really full vengeance. But, the four tracks on this EP are some quality tracks, sounding something like what you'd find on *For Emma*, but with a healthy dose of experimentation, including different instruments — piano, electric guitar — and even electronic altering of Vernon's voice.

On the track "Woods," the EP's ending song, Vernon's voice is slightly electronified because there are no other instruments in the song except for his voice. The electronic filter serves to instrumentalize his voice, making it a perfect backing for the melody. Using only his voice, he builds slowly to a climax of

buttery falsetto and fuzzy background, creating an engulfing effect — and a beautiful one.

The track "Babys" is characterized by a repeating piano chord reminiscent of Sufjan Stevens in one of his instrumental interludes. The chords continue hypnotically until Vernon begins to sing. Justin sings the phrase "to multiply" as the chorus while the chords build and build, falling on each other like snow.

"Blood Bank" and "Beach Bay" sound like outtakes from *For Emma*, albeit with a slightly different, fuzzier sound — though similarity to *Emma* is by no means a bad thing.

All in all, the EP sounds like a transition that departs, and at the same time returns, to what brought Bon Iver popular success with their first album. Most important is that the music has retained its rustic, intimate quality. Listening to it, you still feel like you're sitting beside a roaring fire in a cabin somewhere, sipping on some spiked eggnog and eating your pancakes.

—William Chen

ARTIST
Franz Ferdinand
ALBUM
Tonight: Franz Ferdinand
LABEL
Sony Records
RELEASED
Jan. 27, 2009

Rock music, as a concept, is simple. All it takes is a loud drum beat, some loud guitars, possibly a bass, maybe a piano and then a singer to shout or croon over everything else. That's all. But what if the formula were altered a little?

NEW VIBRATIONS

ARTIST
Animal Collective
ALBUM
Merriweather Post Pavilion
LABEL
Domino
RELEASED
Jan. 20, 2009

Merriweather Post Pavilion, Animal Collective's eighth studio album, is a welcome detraction from the all-experimental acid rock sound for which the Baltimore-based band is so widely known.

Like 2007's *Strawberry Jam*, Animal Collective's most well-known album to date, *Merriweather* takes its name from an outdoor music venue in Columbia, Md. The album is rife with whirring drums

and crashing cymbals, sonic computer-enhanced guitar riffs and other-worldly looped vocal echoes. But while *Strawberry Jam* reads more like a compilation of ultra-dense idiosyncratic synth beats, *Merriweather* mashes a more accessible pop sound with the typical deep-rooted Animal Collective juxtaposition of folk and hardcore experimental rock.

The battle between organic and inorganic that has always raged in Animal Collective's albums adds a new element with the influx of memorable, catchy hooks and lyrics.

Merriweather's track list boasts some of the most exciting songs Animal Collective has ever had to offer. "My Girls," the second track off the album, which leaked a few months before *Merriweather* was released to a bevy of eager fans, is perhaps the best of the bunch.

With a fast-paced foray into flash and fatherhood, members David "Avey Pare" Portner, Josh "Deacon" Dibb, Brian "Geologist" Weitz and Noah "Panda Bear" Lennox wax poetic through the repeated hook "I don't mean to seem like I care about material things ...

I just want four walls and adobe slabs for my girls." A twinkling electronic beat blinks in and out of the background and a steady string of synth and sharp claps blends in with the echoed, surrealistic vocals.

A second track of note, "Summertime Clothes," features distinctly denser lyrics and a more frantic feel than "My Girls," but maintains the upbeat sound that tends to dominate *Merriweather's* playlist.

High-pitched computerized beeps squeal between an intense drum clap and whirling vocals, but it settles softly into a constant repeat of the final lines. "I want to walk around with you," the members of Animal Collective sing, as they take the listener on an offbeat journey through distortion and magical psychedelia.

"Daily Routine" and "Brother Sport," the respective fifth and last tracks, are also sure to be future favorites of Animal Collective fans. Both project the same kind of intense hurdle through computerized acid techno fused with classic folk lyrics and vocals that highlight the band's brilliance and originality.

High-pitched synth sound rains down in "Daily Routine" as Avey Pare wails once again about the joys, trials and tribulations of fatherhood and adult responsibility. "Brother Sport" adds a more accessible, catchy feel to the album while simultaneously capitalizing on *Merriweather's* theme of family, hyperactively honing a six-minute lyrical race amidst a wild white-water rush of stinging pulses and beats.

Merriweather is not all post-rock perfection; Animal Collective is not a band that can generally appeal to a large collection of music listeners, although this album is certainly their most universally diverse. Some songs, like "Bluish," lack the same intensity and brilliance that the others display, thus creating something of a weak link between otherwise stellar tracks. Regardless, *Merriweather* is a work of art that should not be missed.

—Rebecca Fishbein

For example, what if a band wrote songs as though they were a rock band, with catchy melodies and pop hooks, but then they discarded the loud guitars in favor of synthesizer, hushed the drummer and made the singer whisper into a big empty room? It's not really rock then, is it?

Franz Ferdinand's latest album, *Tonight: Franz Ferdinand*, begins with a thudding bass and a quiet drum beat. Alex Kapranos smooth voice lets out a soft whisper, something about a sentimental face and getting high. Gradually, synthesized notes drop into the song, then Kapranos' voice gets louder and higher and the song begins in proper. The catchy and repetitive guitar lines have been dropped, but the dance-floor beats are still there. Franz Ferdinand have taken out much of the rock and pop ele-

ment from their sound, excepting the group-choruses, and they've added in a lot of synthesizer. What little they've left of the electric guitar sound that drove their previous two albums has been relegated to rhythm duty, and the solos are taken up either by synthesizer or by a very heavily processed electric guitar.

On several of the songs, the singer's voice is put through reverb. All these effects and the lack of a traditional "loud and obnoxious" guitar part make the music harder to appreciate immediately and on a gut level.

It's thoughtfully written and performed, but it's not the kind

of music that will end up on *TVTropes.org* as an example of "Crowning Music of Awesome". However, the album comes awfully close to having a crowning moment of awesomeness during the thundering chorus of "Bite Hard." Additionally, the whole of "Lucid Dreams" is pretty amazing regardless of how well you take to the band's new sound and direction.

The album works wonderfully as music to dance to. The multitude of synthesized notes, the weird, shimmering electronic noises all build on the bass parts and add depth to each song. Though the effects are many, the songs are arranged in such a manner that the sound never becomes overwhelming. It's not a wall-of-sound, but rather an engine-of-sound, and each little noise becomes an interlocking piece of the whole.

The album ends with "Katherine Kiss Me," an acoustic number, giving the listener a chance to rest and breathe after the 11 dance numbers preceding it. Taken as a whole, *Tonight: Franz Ferdinand* is a good album that may not appeal to everyone. However, it's worth a listen. *Tonight* is a change of style for the band, but it's still got the brains and passion behind it that made the last two albums so much fun.

—Alex Neville

New winter shows warm up the small screen

By ALEX VOCKROTH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The sidewalks are treacherously icy, the air is bitterly cold, but luckily, the networks have a cornucopia of season premieres this month to keep you entertained indoors.

Series new and returning mix up the primetime line-up this month as the TV midseason begins. Finding quality programming between the *Deal or No Deal's* and *Kath and Kim's* out there can be a daunting task indeed, so check out the shows below for your best bets this winter.

Big Love

Our favorite polygamists are at it again, getting into more schemes and double-crossings in the third season of HBO's *Big Love*.

The show centers on the Henricksons, a wholesome, white-bread family living in the 'burbs in Utah that just happens to include three wives.

At the end of season two, Bill Henrickson (Bill Paxton) is beaming with pride over his newest business acquisition, a company that manufactures casino gaming machines, and is courting a potential fourth wife. Meanwhile, at the polygamist compound headed by Bill's business rival/father-in-law, Roman Grant (Harry Dean Stanton) was arrested for marrying off underage girls.

Just in case that's not enough drama, season three's got plenty more to dish out to the characters. Third wife Margene (Ginifer Goodwin, *Walk the Line*) attempts to gain more authority in the Henrickson household, while Nicki, wife number two, schemes to help her father, Roman, out of his legal quagmire. And poor Barb, once Bill's only wife, experiences a cancer scare.

With *Big Love*, *Six Feet Under's* Alan Ball has created another

strange and strangely lovable family of outcasts. The drama's third season is a winter must-see.

Big Love airs Sundays at 9 p.m. on HBO.

Flight of the Conchords

The musical/comedy duo from New Zealand returned to HBO this month to kick off season two of their hilarious half-hour series.

Last year, the Conchords, Jemaine Clement and Bret McKenzie, surprised

American TV-watchers with the revelation that New Zealand is responsible for more than just the *Lord of the Rings* films and kiwi birds.

The series blends quick, dry wit with songs written and performed by the talented duo, yielding a unique product that's refreshing for this country's generally dull, unimaginative shows. The musical premise may at first be off-putting to some, but rest assured, the Conchords pull it off way better than *Cop Rock* did.

Last season ended with Jemaine and Bret feeling neglected by their manager, Murray, who recently struck it big with his other band, the Crazy Dogzzz, a keytar-bongo duo.

Judging from what we've seen so far, the sophomore season will be just as full of subtle humor, bizarre characters and oddly catchy tunes as the first. *Flight of the Conchords* boasts a specialized

type of humor, but lucky for you, it seems largely specialized for the college-age demo.

Flight of the Conchords follows *Big Love* Sundays at 10 p.m. on HBO.

Scrubs

After eight years and a couple of false alarms, the medical comedy series *Scrubs* will finally seal off the hospital for good this season.

The last two seasons have been a little bumpy and a lot whacky, but, according to show creator/unequivocal genius Bill Lawrence, the final season harkens back to the heyday of the series. From what has aired so far, it seems he's telling the truth.

This year, the team at Sacred Heart Hospital encounters a new set of challenges with their new set of medical interns (among them red-hot rising comedian Aziz Ansari). On top of that, the hospital attempts to find a re-



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.SCRUBS-HQ.COM

placement for the retired chief of medicine, Dr. Kelso, initially enlisting the aid of *Friends* star Courteney Cox Arquette.

Otherwise, viewers can expect storylines to be wrapped up for all of the show's characters, from the on-again-off-again drama between JD and Elliot to the lives of the minor characters like Ted the lawyer.

The biggest change for the show this season is its switch from NBC to ABC (the latter has actually always produced the show), which has proven profitable for both the network and the series in terms of ratings. Because season eight began mid-season, ABC plans to air two episodes a week, meaning an hour-long block of comedy goodness every Tuesday night.

Scrubs airs Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on ABC.

Lie to Me

Think you're a master of deception? Well, you might decide to brush up on your skills after watching *Lie to Me*, a new drama from Fox starring Tim Roth (*The Incredible Hulk*).

The series will follow Dr. Cal Lightman (Roth), who helps law enforcement to crack cases by telling them who among their witnesses and suspects is lying. But this isn't another sci-fi show: Lightman is a deception expert, and his sharp observations of body language make him the most accurate polygraph there is.

Lie to Me comes from creator Sam Baum, whose last series, the short-lived drama *The Evidence*, didn't make waves in the world of television. But this latest creative effort has some serious heavyweights working behind the scenes with executive producers Brian Grazer (24, *Friday Night Lights*, *Frost/Nixon* and about 150 more) and David Nevins (*Friday Night Lights*, *Arrested Development*).

Still, it's too soon to predict the path of this fledgling series, but with Kelli Williams (*The Practice*) co-starring as a psychologist who is Lightman's work partner and an intriguing twist on the unerringly popular crime drama theme, *Lie to Me* could hold strong in its Wednesday-night slot.

Catch *Lie to Me* on Fox Wednesdays at 9 p.m.

maniacal, and never apologize for thinking you belong. He also compelled students to realize that going into film is a life decision, not simply a professional one. "If you want to do this for a living, you have to do it for a living. It's not a job; it's a lifestyle. It's not a nine-to-five gig," Meistrich explained.

With that said, he discussed how to get into the business. He clarified that there are "two entry points: work as crew or cut a check." Either work your way up the ranks from crew or have the money to pay your way in. Since most follow the former entry point, he stressed that the best way to do this is to intern and get as much practice with film as possible. Students at Hopkins have free access to thousands and thousands of dollars worth of film and editing equipment that Meistrich said they should be using every single day because after graduation it costs much more to use.

Along those lines, students should be shooting short films every day. This practice will help tremendously in the long run. "The only way to feel like you belong is to have the experience to back up your confidence," Meistrich said.

"Work everyday until you are incredibly good at your craft."

Though Meistrich seemed to break down a lot of students' morale in telling the truth about the industry, he reminded them that, "You have Hopkins on your f-ing resume. Don't be afraid to use any advantage you can find for yourself. . . Use the pedigree you paid for." Meistrich warned that Hollywood has cut itself off from younger, new, fresh artists, but not to worry because the Internet has revolutionized film.

Much of what students learned this past weekend was about themselves. Some of many of Meistrich's mantras that he drilled into the participants' heads included "Never ever apologize," "Take the criticism, swallow it," and "[There are] no f-ing excuses." Without a clear head and unshakable personality, there is not only no way to get into the industry, but there is also no place for such people. Meistrich believes to be in the industry, "[you] must have a level of arrogance" and "have a f-ing attitude," but not be conceited or ego-

taught. From how to pitch a film or television series idea to a producer to how to distribute one's film internationally once it's made, Hopkins students got a real inside look into what it takes not only to make it in film, but also what it takes to make a successful film.

After being instructed on how to successfully pitch an idea, every student nearly flawlessly pitched a story to Meistrich. Though he didn't give any hints to whether or not he would pick up any of the students' ideas, Meistrich seemed pleased with their overall performance. The participants can only wait and hope that they get a call from him, and if not, they had a phenomenal opportunity to practice pitching ideas that most people never get.

If anybody wants to go into the film and entertainment industry, it seems best to follow Meistrich's advice: never apologize, be a bit arrogant, and come prepared.

Film boot camp is harsh but helpful

By ALEXANDRA BYER
Staff Writer

They break you down to build you up. This relatively familiar tagline is usually associated with military boot camps, but for three days throughout the weekend of Jan. 23 the phrase corresponded to film. About 25 Hopkins students (including one graduate student) participated in Nehst Studio's Film Boot Camp. Most of these undergraduates were film majors or minors, hoping to gain some insight into the film industry. The workshop was directed by Hollywood producer, financier and distributor Larry Meistrich and his fiancée Antonia Ellis, a producer of *Sex and the City*. Students not only learned a valuable amount of information that comes from years of actually being in the industry, but also were able to pitch one of their own movie or TV series ideas to Meistrich. If Meistrich liked an idea enough, he said he would later contact that student to talk about producing their film or show.

Meistrich is a Hopkins alumnus who graduated in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Writing Seminars program. Introduced to film while in Baltimore, Meistrich was an extra in John Water's film *Cry Baby* (1990) that starred Johnny Depp. Post graduation, he did grunt work as a production assistant, worked his way up to assistant director, got lucky and eventually climbed the film industry's ladder to become an extremely successful producer, with over 80 accredited films.

But those who watch shows like *Entourage* may have been surprised not by Meistrich's personality, but by his appearance. Showing up Friday evening for the first workshop of the boot camp, Meistrich was not wearing a jazzy suit or even slacks and a sweater. Instead, he donned a Hopkins hat, a baggy tee-shirt, light blue jeans and sneakers. But his personality, though startling, wasn't unexpected. He was brash and arrogant. He made it crystal clear that he cares

If you want to do this for a living, you have to do it for a living. It's not a job; it's a lifestyle.

—LARRY MEISTRICH

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Sophomore Ryan Decker on a lucky streak as Lucky Strike

The Hopkins student/part-time DJ discusses his new album

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

it, and after they saw me open for Dan Deacon when he played on campus last year, they let me get involved with their operation. It's been really fun so far, I'm excited.

N-L: What are some of your musical influences? Favorite musical genre? Group/artist?

Decker: My influences include Girl Talk. [They've been] a catalyst for the music I'm making now. I'm trying to move away from novelty and predictability with my sound collage work so I can cite more interesting influences. I've lately been trying to express emotion, conventional instrumental songwriting and transient humor, as well as exploring the intersections between composition and sampling, all within the very loose confines of dance-focused music.

The exciting thing about sample-based work, for me, is that influences can be incredibly diverse; I think that diversity is pretty apparent in the new album. I definitely listen to too much music

to have a favorite genre,

but I'm a fan of Brazilian,

Psych-Folk,

Baltimore Club,

New Wave,

Backpack Rap,

Indie Electronic,

Nu Disco,

French Touch

and a lot of others.

My favorite band

is Animal Collective.

N-L: So what's the origin of "Lucky Strike"?

Decker: The name Lucky Strike comes from artist Ray Johnson, founder of the Mail Art movement.

He did a lot of collage work,

and the parallels

between

visual and sound collage are important to me.

Creating meaning

and associations out of pre-existing

elements is obviously something I'm into.

Ray's a really interesting artist.

N-L: You must be really excited about your album that dropped last week. What are your future plans?

Decker: Yeah I'm pretty excited about it, I spent nearly a year on it: about four months planning the concepts and the rest executing it. It took a while to get everything in and tweak the flow to my taste.

It's much better than the stuff I used to do. I think it works on more levels, means more, interplays pretty well and sounds

more professional. At least I hope. You can dance to it, too.

For the time being I'm just going to be promoting that album, working on my live DJ and sound collage sets and doing some other music projects. I'm also in a band with Diego Ardilla; he's a really talented songwriter.

Also, the radio station is going to break the world record for "world's longest jam session" in the spring, so I'll be helping with that because I'm the event director for WJHU. The current record is five days, we are going for six.

Upon hearing DJ Strike's new album, one can safely affirm that it is certainly what the artist himself described: an eclectic, electric compilation of music, new and old, collected from any genre imaginable. "DRAAWWW-WWW" a particular collage that's on the new album, captures the catchy piano of Sara Bareilles, the rhymes of Rich Boy and the trademark chant from "The Electric Slide."

Another track, "Grassy Knoll," blends music from Kanye West's



COURTESY OF RYAN DECKER

"Jesus Walks" with beats drawn from sounds generated by a Nintendo game system.

Decker has something for everyone — and from everyone. From Daft Punk to Lil' Wayne to Green Day, the list of artists from which the DJ has sampled work is as extensive as one could hope for.

His music is definitely reminiscent of Girl Talk, a major influence for Decker. Through the blending of an even greater amount of music, however, the Hopkins student achieves an even greater connection with his audience.

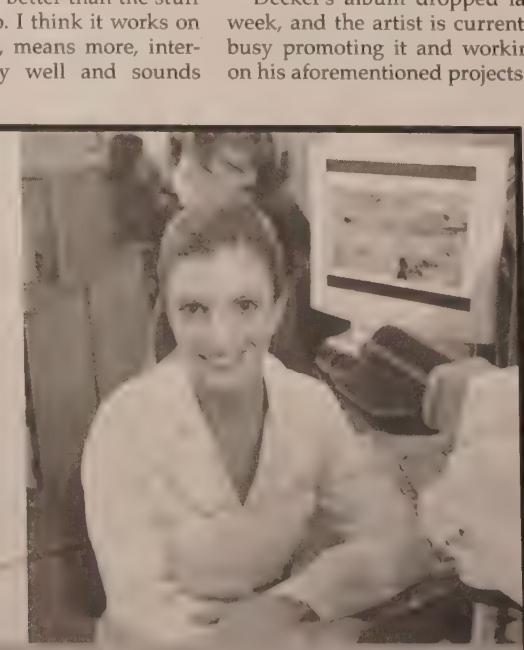
Decker's album dropped last week, and the artist is currently busy promoting it and working on his aforementioned projects.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Scientists describe your ears' natural earplugs

New research demonstrates how the sensitive cells of the ear can protect themselves from excessively loud sounds

By CELESTE LIPKES

Staff Writer

During a typical Metallica concert, your ears take in about 100 decibels of sound — more if you forget your earplugs. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association labels sounds louder than 80 decibels — that's about three times the sound intensity you might hear during a typical night on the library's M level — "potentially hazardous."

With so many opportunities for hearing damage, how do your ears know to "turn down" incoming sound to prevent acoustic trauma?

Now we have a better answer to this question, thanks to Hopkins researchers who genetically modified mice to create more effective sound-limiting auditory hair cells, which detect sound in the ear.

The mice were engineered with a single mutation in the receptors for acetylcholine (ACh), an important neurotransmitter which is found in hair cells.

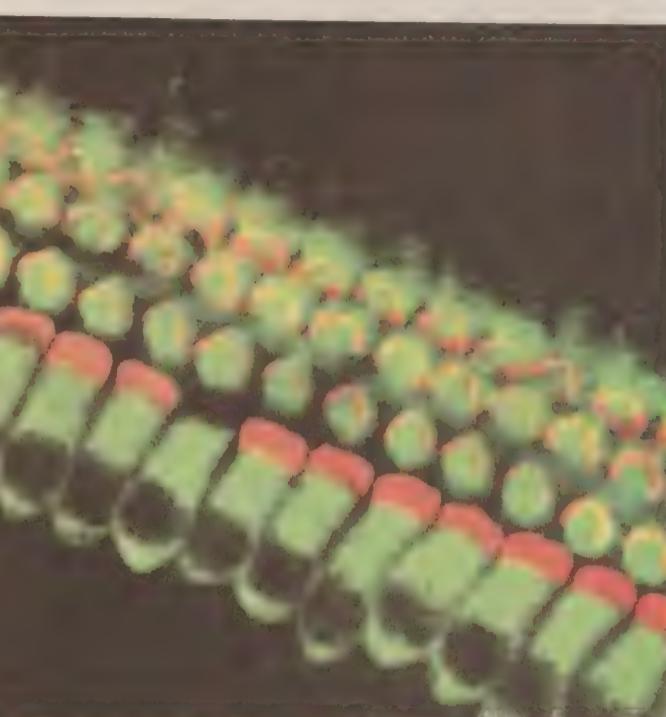
This change in the acetylcholine receptors affected a "feedback" part of the auditory system that modulates sound signals be-

tween the brain and the inner ear.

The researchers found that the mice were significantly more protected from auditory damage than mice with normal ACh receptors.

"This point mutation was designed to produce a so-called gain of function in which the inhibitory effect of acetylcholine should be greater than normal," senior author of the paper Paul Fuchs said in a statement last week.

The team's finding is good news for patients with hearing loss and tinnitus, or persistent ringing. "We think this pathway could be a therapeutic



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.MBL.EDU

target for protecting from sound damage," Fuchs said.

All of your sensory systems function similarly — your visual, olfactory and somatic or touch systems have specialized cells that turn sensory information (the sight of a friend, the taste of a hamburger) into electric signals that all neurons can use.

The auditory system is unique, however; though it does have specialized hair cells that sense sound, creating a signal that ultimately gets to the brain, it also modulates sound input through neurons that send signals "backwards" — from the brain to the inner ear.

In other words, conversations between the ear and brain are a two-way street.

Scientists were previously uncertain what role this modulation played in our ability to hear. Hopkins researchers showed that when this feedback system increases in power, as in the genetically altered mice, it effectively functions as "natural earplugs" by inhibiting sound signals from returning to overwhelm the

brain.

"Now we've definitively shown that this system functions in part to prevent acoustic trauma," Fuchs said.

The researchers increased the strength of this feedback system by targeting the mice's cholinergic auditory neurons — cells that use acetylcholine as their main neurotransmitter. These cells contain acetylcholine receptors with two protein subunits: alpha-9 and alpha-10.

The researchers tweaked the alpha-9 subunit of the mice's acetylcholine receptor by substituting one amino acid for another. This mutation increased the neurons' sensitivity to acetylcholine, which then inhibited the mice's hair cells and decreased their sound perception.

"We're still learning how the inner ear works," Fuchs said. "[But] there is a real chance of finding ear-specific drugs in the future."

For those of us unwilling to genetically modify our auditory cells, however, earplugs can still do the trick.

Carbon monoxide gas might protect brain from stroke

By LINDSEY HUTZLER

Staff Writer

Surprising results from the School of Medicine suggest that carbon monoxide, in tiny doses, might actually protect the brain — contrary to the reputation of the colorless, odorless gas as a killer.

To be clear: Carbon monoxide is very bad for you in normal doses, since it immediately prevents your blood from carrying enough oxygen to allow you to survive.

But very small amounts of the gas, known by its abbreviation CO, can expand or dilate blood vessels, a neat trick that might one day reduce the effects of a stroke.

Blood vessel dilation causes an increase in blood flow, and it may prevent cell death caused by inflammation and oxygen starvation. In addition, it can reduce the amount of water in the brain, which can kill nerve cells by increasing the pressure inside the head.

These properties make CO appear promising as an intervention in stroke treatment.

"Our goal here was to test whether CO, by itself, can be protective in the brain. It is known to be toxic, because it binds to hemoglobin, but here we showed that low levels of CO would not increase the carboxyhemoglobin levels to toxic levels," Sylvain Dore, an associate professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, said.

In 2005, 143,579 deaths were caused by stroke in the United States, making it the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of adult disability.

The only effective treatment that is currently in practice is the removal of a blood clot blocking the blood flow within a given region of the brain. Yet this must be performed within three hours of the onset of a stroke, making it difficult to restore optimal neurological function.

Dore has been testing the effect of carbon monoxide administered to mice that underwent an induced stroke by having an artery to one side of the brain blocked. After the onset of the induced stroke, the mice were exposed to either 125 or 250 parts per million (ppm) of carbon monoxide, while a control group of mice was exposed only to air.

Brain damage and neurological function were tested in each group of mice. Those exposed to air showed brain damage to half of the side of the brain where blood flow was cut off.

This figure decreased to just one-third in mice who received 125 ppm of CO and dropped to as low as 18 percent in the group exposed to 250 ppm of CO. Neurological functioning tests showed improvement in both groups of mice that were exposed to CO after the induced stroke.

"What is interesting here," Dore said, "is that a gas such as CO can reduce brain damage and neurological deficits following a stroke."

— SYLVAIN DORE,
PROFESSOR

Work remains for the research team to determine whether this intervention is applicable to human patients.

In addition, they must find the smallest optimal dose of CO and the duration in which to administer it; the safest method by which to administer it without reaching toxic levels of CO exposure and the window in which it must be given to patients after suffering a stroke.

Thus far, the results appear promising. Low levels of CO (defined as 250 ppm) can reduce the infarct size, or a localized area of tissue that is dying due to deprivation of blood supply, by 60 percent, a substantial saving of precious brain tissue that could be the difference between life and death for the patient.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.UCR.EDU

New dust-sized microgrippers open new doors in surgery

By BARBARA HA

Staff Writer

An interdisciplinary group of scientists at Hopkins has created dust-sized microgrippers that one day might allow advanced, minimally invasive surgeries that target just a few cells.

Unlike previous microgrippers, which are controlled by tethers and therefore limited in their function, these are responsive to chemicals and temperature.

"We are trying to create chemically responsive micro-tools for manufacturing and medicine. Our motivation is based on the fact that chemical actuation is the cornerstone of the high specificity, selectivity and autonomy observed in biological machinery," senior author of the study David Gracias said.

"As a first step to achieving this goal, we described chemically responsive microgrippers wherein the closing and opening of the gripper are in response to chemicals."

Researchers in the departments of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Chemistry and Biomedical Engineering believe these microgrippers may potentially aid the capture and retrieval of substances within the body of a human being.

Already, various tasks have been successfully achieved by these tetherless microgrippers such as picking up tiny beads off substrates or removing cells from tissue samples.

Such a development in microgripper technology has proven to be imperative in recent times because of the outdated method used with current microgrippers, which are tethered to external wires.

These tethers, which had been necessary to control the movement of the microgrippers, can hinder more complex manipulations.

Extra material causes specialists to run into unnecessary difficulties, especially when operating at the microscopic level of cells. It is especially difficult to maneuver these microgrippers around corners and in coiled spaces.

The design of these microgrippers can be described as an ingenious mixture of intelligence and exquisite detail. The shape of the microgripper was inspired by the joints of arthropods and resembles biological appendages, such as hu-

man hands, in which the jointed "fingers" orient themselves around a central "palm."

After much testing, it was concluded that grippers with six rotationally symmetric digits, as opposed to five as in humans, provided the device with the optimal balance in function.

This gives it efficiency in the ability to both close properly on the target substance and to hold on to objects despite a few defective joints.

It is mainly composed of metals including chromium, copper, nickel and gold. The metallic nature of the microgrippers gives them the ability to be imaged by magnetic resonance techniques.

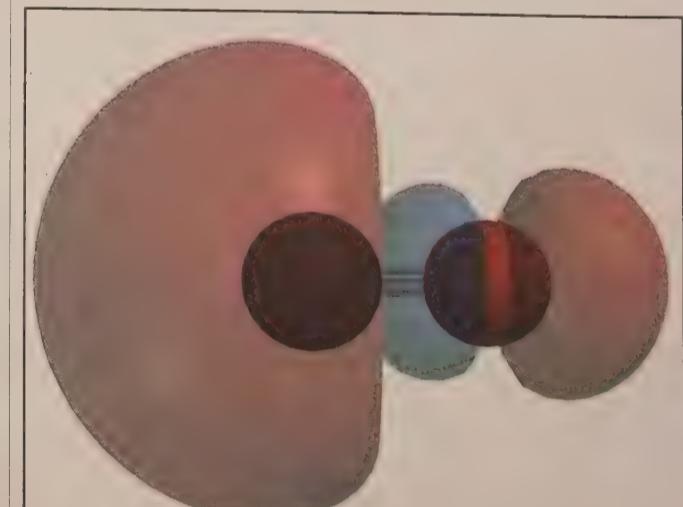
Although these microgrippers have only recently been introduced to the field, they possess great potential to place amongst the top gadgets that are flood-

ing the technology market of this century.

"We convincingly demonstrated that the gripper could be used to excise cells from a piece of bovine bladder placed at the end of a narrow tube. This is a simple mimic of a surgical procedure but clearly many more challenges need to be overcome to enable this experiment in vivo and we are seeking collaborators in the Hopkins School of Medicine to achieve this goal," Gracias said.

Microgrippers have not yet been routinely used in humans, although a transfer to the clinic is possible in the near future.

In the near future, these researchers envision that the microgrippers will be mass-produced due to their cheap manufacturing costs and used in microscopic procedures involving thin tubes and capillaries.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Major step in malaria infection is unveiled in breakthrough

By TIFFANY NG

Staff Writer

Researchers at the Bloomberg School of Public Health have announced a major advance in the fight against malaria: They have discovered the proteins that make it possible for the parasite *Plasmodium berghei* to infect mosquitos.

This parasite is responsible for approximately 400 million cases of malaria each year and results in more than one million deaths. The disease is transmitted when a *Plasmodium*-infected mosquito bites a human.

In order for the parasite to develop and infect the mosquito, it needs to recognize, attach and invade the insect's host cells. Proper invasion requires that the parasite's surface proteins bind to

receptor proteins in the salivary glands of the mosquito.

Discovering which proteins are involved in this process is crucial to understanding the way malaria is transmitted from parasite to mosquito, and finally to the human host where it causes the symptoms of malaria, a potentially fatal illness.

The way these proteins interact is much like a lock and key, where the surface proteins from the malaria parasite fit tightly into the surface receptors on the salivary glands.

Hopkins researchers first used a small, artificial peptide called SM1 to determine which receptor proteins in the mosquito salivary glands were involved in the binding and invasion process. The SM1 "key" bound with a receptor known as saglin, which is

the "lock" in this case.

When SM1 was introduced into the salivary glands, the parasite's ability to infect the mosquito decreased. This suggests that the SM1 peptide is similar to a surface protein found naturally on the parasite that is responsible for infection.

Essentially, SM1 and this surface protein compete for the available saglin receptors. Since SM1 takes up some of the saglin receptors, fewer natural surface proteins are able to bind and cause infection.

To find these surface proteins on the parasite that bind with saglin, researchers synthesized antibodies that bind tightly to the SM1 peptide.

These same antibodies also bind to the Thrombospondin-Related Anonymous Protein, or

TRAP, which is present on the malaria parasite. TRAP binds tightly with saglin, suggesting that these two proteins are essential to *Plasmodium* infection in nature.

The researchers demonstrated that TRAP-saglin binding is crucial for cell invasion by reducing the expression of the gene that codes for saglin, a process known as down-regulation.

With less saglin present on the mosquito salivary glands, *Plasmodium* invasion into these cells was significantly decreased.

Even though the invasion of the parasite into the salivary glands is a very complex process, this molecular mechanism could potentially allow for the development of treatments to halt the spread of malaria at the source of the disease.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.JHU.EDU

These microgrippers have attached to a small cluster of cells.

Science News Briefs

APL to work with NASA on probes to lunar poles

NASA recently selected the Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL) to be one of seven teams in its newly instated Lunar Science Institute. According to the Institute's Web site, "Competitively selected team investigations will focus on one or more aspects of lunar science investigations of the Moon (including lunar samples), from the Moon and on the Moon."

The APL team, led by scientist Ben Bussey, will be looking at the Moon's poles specifically, studying their composition and determining methods of future lunar pole exploration. With four years of research in the works from a \$6.9-million grant, the APL scientists should soon be well on their way to achieving these goals.

Hubble telescope finds racing stars

Hot, young and with a need for speed: Fourteen wild stars have been caught racing through space. Spotted accidentally by the Hubble Space Telescope, which is operated out of the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) at Hopkins, the stars leave long glowing tails in the dense gas they pass through.

What made these stars run



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away at speeds greater than 112,000 miles (180,000 kilometers) per hour? There are two possible scenarios. In the first, the star was originally part of a binary system (where two stars are in orbit around one another) when one of the stars exploded in a supernova, violently ejecting the other one out.

The other scenario is a collision between stars and/or star clusters that give the potentially renegade star extra energy needed to speed off. More studies are planned for scientists to understand exactly what the story is behind these lucky discoveries.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.HUBBLESTIE.ORG

Shock waves at the front of these four racing stars may be one trillion miles across.

APL: Satellites to study radiation belts also in the works

Hopkins's Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) is starting work to develop twin probes which will study Earth's radiation belts as part of the two-year Radiation Storm Belt Probes, or RSBP, mission.

The mission has been in planning for three years already, but NASA has only just recently given the go-ahead to begin actual probe development. APL has developed and operated many NASA satellites in the past.

Studying the Earth's radiation belt will help scientists learn more about how the high-energy particles that make up the storm belt develop and how they are affected by fluctuating energy levels from the Sun's radiation in the electromagnetic fields around the planet. The magnetic fields can also affect electronics on Earth.

With a better understanding of this space radiation, scientists hope to be able to increase their ability to predict phenomena in the radiation belt and to engineer spacecraft and other equipment able to withstand such a harsh environment.

— All briefs by Amy Dusko

HIV patients can receive kidney transplants

Clinical study shows that HIV status should not affect transplants, with proper precautions

By JOCELYN WAGMAN

Staff Writer

In the last decade or so in the United States, HIV infection has been transformed from a life-ending disease to a life-changing one. With the development of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART), HIV-positive patients are living longer, and in so doing, confronting the new challenge of coping with chronic conditions.

One of these conditions is end stage renal disease (ESRD) which has led to consideration of HIV-positive patients' candidacy for kidney transplants.

Doctors at the Hopkins School of Medicine wanted to know how HIV-positive patients undergoing kidney transplantation fare compared to HIV-negative patients who undergo the same procedure. Their results were published in *Archives of Surgery* this month.

"The role for kidney transplantation among HIV-positive ESRD patients is under consideration, but concerns remain regarding allocation of kidneys to these patients when long-term benefit has not been firmly established," lead author of the study Jayme Locke said in an e-mail interview.

"The goal of our study was to determine whether or not HIV-positive kidney transplant recipients can have long-term graft survival comparable to their HIV-

negative counterparts."

Locke and her team expected that HIV-positive patients might have lower one-year kidney graft survival than HIV-negative patients based on their already immuno-compromised condition. What the research implies, however, is not exactly that.

"We found that while long-term allograft survival is lower among HIV-positive recipients, controllable risk factors may explain this disparity," Locke said.

So, while graft survival is lower in HIV-positive patients, the factors that cause this disparity can be addressed. "Several additional sensitivity analyses were required. These analyses were necessary because of the relatively small number of HIV-positive kidney transplants that have ever been performed (approximately 100)," Locke said. "Multivariate models based on small sample sizes are inherently unstable and can result in overfitting of the model. Our results, however, were robust to all sensitivity analyses."

In order to address the obstacles created by small sample size, Locke and his team are involved in a bigger, multi-center trial that aims to "collect more detailed information about HIV-positive recipients so that the impact of transplant immunosuppression and HAART on long-term outcomes, including patient and graft survival and infectious complications, can be better understood," Locke said.

In fact, the researchers found that results of transplantation were equally good for HIV-positive and negative patients when kidney donors were under 50 years old.

This is good news for HIV-positive patients with ESRD, and it doesn't stop there.

"Historically, there have been concerns about the potential ad-

Historically, there have been concerns about the potential additive effect of immunosuppression agents and HIV.

— DR. JAYME LOCKE,
TRANSPLANT SURGEON

avoidance of prolonged cold ischemic (organ preservation before surgery) time, utilization of living donors and determination of optimal immunosuppression dosing prior to transplantation, long-term graft survival comparable to HIV-negative recipients can be achieved," Locke said.

In fact, the researchers found that results of transplantation were equally good for HIV-positive and negative patients when kidney donors were under 50 years old.

This is good news for HIV-positive patients with ESRD, and it doesn't stop there.

"Historically, there have been concerns about the potential ad-

Mechanism drives brain cell growth

By SAM OHMER
Staff Writer

For those who fear the daily death of their brain cells — never fear! Gadd45b is here!

In the genome, that is. It used to be thought that humans were born with a certain number of brain cells, and that was it. For the rest of their lives, those cells are only ever getting closer to death.

But that's not quite the truth, as it turns out. In fact, there is some rather important growth and neuronal creation — neurogenesis — that occurs in the hippocampus and elsewhere.

That's good news, for sure; the hippocampus is known most for the role it plays in memory.

Scientists led by Dengke Ma of the Hopkins School of Medicine have come to realize that not only is there plenty of cell generation going on in the hippocampus, but also that some of this new growth is actually ushered in by current cellular activity.

That's right: The more activated hippocampal neurons are, the more new neurons get sprouted. That's pretty useful, and smart, as well; because if you're using your hippocampus that much, you had better have the neurons — new and old — to back up all those memories!

Ma and colleagues have been studying one gene in particular and its associations with this whole process of neurogenesis. By manipulating neurons of the dentate nucleus of the hippocampus both *in vivo* and *in vitro*, this group was able to observe that with certain stimuli, neurons in the hippocampus became more highly activated.

These cells showed noticeable increases in the expression of the Gadd45b gene.

Gadd45b is an interesting gene that has been associated with repair and adaptive cell responses. That means that it's there to fix what might be going wrong with some neurons.

Some of the stimuli that can start the Gadd45b engine include when mice begin to physically

explore new environments; when mice are given electroconvulsive treatment (ECT), when light reaches the retina and is sent to a part of the brain called the suprachiasmatic nucleus, which regulates the circadian rhythm and even when mice begin a weekly test exercise period.

And in each case, when Gadd45b is activated as a result of the stimuli, there are even further effects seen, such as direct gene activation and DNA demethylation. This is an important observation because DNA demethylation is one way that certain genes can be turned on.

If a gene is methylated, it isn't "read" by RNA; if RNA doesn't read a part of the DNA, that particular gene won't get expressed.

Thus, when Gadd45b promotes the demethylation of DNA, it is also promoting the "turning on" of certain genes.

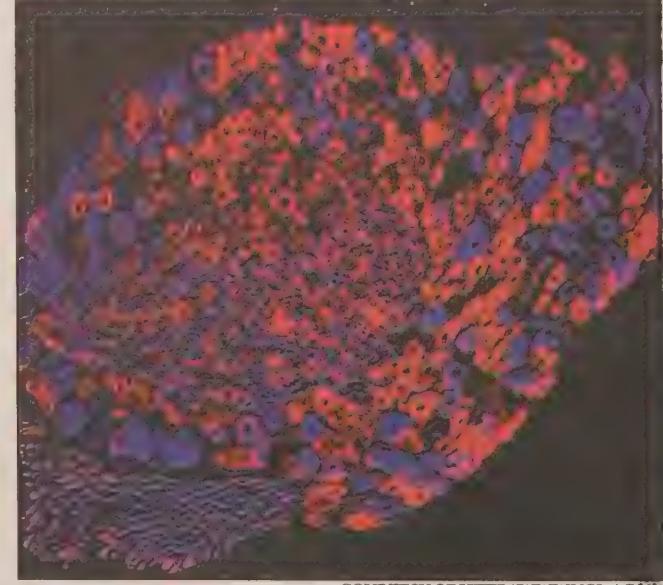
It is precisely those genes that Gadd45b turns on, then, that can influence how many new neurons pop up. In particular, Ma and his team have noticed that two DNA regions in particular get a lot of attention from Gadd45b; these regions include the genes for growth factors BDNF and FGF-1.

These both happen to be genes that promote cell growth and development. Ta-da! It all makes sense now: exercise, ECT and exploring new environments lead to the activation of Gadd45b; Gadd45b in turn causes the demethylation of BDNF and FGF-1 DNA regions; BDNF and FGF-1 are DNA regions that promote (neuronal) cell growth, and when these bad boys are turned on by demethylation, they're all ready to hit the brain and start making some new neurons.

The best part is that Gadd45b works on both mature and newly created neurons, so it's never too late to get Gadd45b!

While it might still be doom and gloom for some neurons in the brain, it seems as if, by treating the hippocampus right and giving it some cool stimuli to check out, the brain will do just fine, thank you very much.

So just remember: Exploring new places can do wonders for the neuron count; exercise brings happiness and helps grow new neurons; and if exploring the world or exercising are just too much, signing up to get your brain shocked is (hardly ever) an option!



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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

It's my right: Hopkins Israel trip

By SARAH ADDISON
For the News-Letter

While many Hopkins students enjoyed an extra long



COURTESY OF CARA SELICK

winter break, some took one or two pass/fail classes or worked during Intersession, I had what probably will be one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I went on a free 10-day trip to Israel for Jewish youth aged 18 to 26 through Taglit Birthright.

When I first heard about this free tour of Jerusalem, Caesarea, the Dead Sea, Tel Aviv and many other sites it seemed like a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn more about Judaism, which incidentally we were informed is a "culture" and not a "religion."

I'm still dubious about whether that's true or not, but either way I originally had great apprehensions about the trip that equaled my parents' concerns about me being close to the conflict in Gaza.

Though I always had identified myself as being Jewish and had felt the importance of at least acknowledging the major holidays, I did not grow up in a strict Jewish household, so naturally I was worried about the structure of the trip.

I figured that while we would tour what are considered some of the holiest places on earth — most of which I had never heard of before going to Israel — our tour guide and trip leaders would hit us over the head with lectures about how we can be and must be "better" Jews. After all, even "less observant" Jews, such as myself, are familiar with the con-

cept of Jewish guilt.

It is impossible to summarize my entire trip in a few paragraphs, but in one sentence I can say that my actual experience was

Visiting historic sites such as Rabin Square where Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated and spiritual sites including Safed, a center of mysticism, among many others, had an obvious impact on me.

Yet, I am sure the other Hopkins students and students from other universities on my tour bus would agree that meeting five Israeli soldiers who were around the same age as us shaped our perception of Israel on a deeper level.

The four male soldiers and one female soldier who joined our bus group and became our friends in such a short time were able to show us how difficult it is for other countries to see the Israeli perspective.

Whether one agrees or disagrees about whether or not Israel should have been created, Israeli citizens are threatened in a way that we in America cannot easily comprehend because the U.S. is not attacked constantly and therefore does not require the vast majority of 18-year-olds to join the army. The situation in Israel is far from perfect and the Israeli Defense Forces have made and do make military mistakes, but the same goes for the U.S. military.

Moreover, after directly asking the soldiers questions, it



COURTESY OF CARA SELICK

The historical fort of Masada is located in the Judean desert.

became clear that all Jews in Israel — from those who call themselves secular to those who are orthodox — recognize that having a Jewish state is immensely important in a world that, even now, is largely anti-Semitic.

Though my trip to Israel has not caused me to amend how I will practice Judaism, I will take away a more informed philosophy about my "culture" or "religion," about religion in general and about the State of Israel.

I encourage other Jews to go to Israel through Birthright, though I believe non-Jews should also visit, given the opportunity. On Birthright, you will not necessarily be changed into a "better" Jew, whatever that means, but you will be changed for the better.

The observance of Shabbat, a special Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah service by the Southern Wall of the ancient temple in Jerusalem and other traditional ceremonies were incorporated into our trip, but I never felt as though the overall purpose of the Taglit Birthright was to instruct us about how we should live once we returned home to the U.S.

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Internet fads I've come across: While *Ras Trent and Obama Plays it Cool* both get shout-outs, the video I've spent the most time watching is called *The Tecktonik Tutorial*. This strange brand of



COURTESY OF CARA SELICK

Birthright gives participants the chance to learn about Middle Eastern and Jewish cultures.

Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
Try to actually study this semester. I promise, it will vastly improve your GPA. And yours needs it ... badly!

Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
Not that the stars aren't in your favor or anything ... but let's just say this week isn't looking good for you either.

Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
To ensure a healthy semester, bring a human sacrifice to MSE when Jupiter's sun rises at the same time as Uranus's.

Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Embarrass yourself at a welcome back frat party? Not yet? Well you will. Just try not to let anyone take photos.

Leo: (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Yourself. That's all the friends you have. This semester, try leaving D-level and meet someone a bit more current than Grey.

Virgo: (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
By now, California kids, you should have realized it's cold in Baltimore. Buy a real coat, looking at you makes me cold.

Libra: (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
Falling in love is bad for you right now. It will destroy your mind, body and soul. Your new love may seem nice, but beware!

Scorpio: (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
On your mark ... get set ... go! Gear up for a hard semester, but take it in stride. It's a marathon, not a sprint!

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Your mother is about to call your cellphone as soon as you read this. Did she call? No? Really? Are you sure?

Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - Jan. 19)
Behind in studies already? It's only the first week, get your act together! You'll thank me later, I promise.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
In life, you have to make hard decisions. Over this weekend, for instance, you'll have to decide which hottie to take home.

Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Snow is falling everywhere. Bundle up with somebody nice and warm this week, things may pan out for the best!

Intersesh pop-culture overload mash-up

Everyone is back from Intersession and the class exchange is on. The student body of Hopkins looks like it was hit by a penguin stick as everyone waddles to and from class in black down parkas. This is a trend I never would have foreseen myself buying into, like Uggs, Crocs or anything else that I associate with my grandmother's closet. And yet here I am; I expect Morgan Freeman to start narrating my life any day now.

So what's new? What have I encountered since we last left campus? First of all, we have a new president. Yay! This is exciting for everyone except *SNL* ... What are they going to do now that Palin has been sent packing? Actually, what is *SNL* going to do in general? With Amy Poehler gone and their number of funny girls down to half a girl, they are going to need to amp up the feminine funny ... Maybe they can jack Miley Cyrus — though even if NBC does manage to get her out of her indentured servitude to Disney, they'd still have to deal with Billy Ray.

Speaking of Disney, or rather, the Mickey Mouse Club, Britney's back with *Circus*, and more importantly, "Womanizer." If you are thinking "Wow, the beginning of this song sounds just like the sirens that go off whenever someone dies in *Kill Bill*," you're right. But it doesn't stop this song from being awesome. You know you want to start Irish step dancing when she breaks into "Boy don't try to front I know just just what you are are are" I don't know why they didn't do that in the music video. It definitely would have made a bigger splash than Britney driving a car with her foot and zooming around in office chairs. Also, the guy in that movie was too perfect to be a womanizer (womanizers are rarely conventionally attractive. If they were secure about their sex appeal, why would they need to prove their masculinity all over everyone else?) He did, however, have a certain roguish charm.

Speaking of roguish charm, if you haven't seen the *Mentalist*, I would definitely look into it. Simon Baker plays Patrick Jane (he is mainly referred to as Jane) the hyper observant consultant to the CBI who, through painfully obvious camera angles in addition to creepily feeling the pulse of every single suspect that walks into an investigation, manages to untangle each mystery. I personally enjoy it when he smiles (what can I say? I have a thing for leggy blonds). Not as slapstick as *Psych*, not as spooky as *Medium*, this show tries to be *House* but charming in real life circumstances ... only problem? The reason *House* seems so brilliant is that no one actually knows what he's talking about. It's a bit harder to generate that superiority on a level playing field — which is why *Bruno Heller* and *David Nutter*, the brilliant producers, really showed their worth when they picked Baker for Jane. We're willing to forgive his less-than-brilliant brilliance because he's so adorable. Well done lads, well done.

Internet fads I've come across: While *Ras Trent and Obama Plays it Cool* both get shout-outs, the video I've spent the most time watching is called *The Tecktonik Tutorial*. This strange brand of

French techno dancing is about as easy to learn as the Macarena — on stilts — in an ice rink. Don't let the fact that the video moves at lightning speed and all the instructions are in French (not to mention they only talk about what to do with your arms when

half the dance is clearly in how you pulse with your legs) daunt you — that's what the rewind feature is for! I spent a lot of time on step four, but now I've pretty much got it down. I'm almost ready to start to think about doing it in front of other people. Unfortunately, I've developed a habitual pause between steps five and six because I can never remember whether or not I'm supposed to look straight down or straight up. I think the problem is that either way I feel like Martha Gram's gremlin half sister. This kind of thing never happens to Britney.

So, Hopkins, before you get bogged down under a bunch of books (clearly the only book I read over break was *The Tipping Point*. What am I? Connector? Maven? Salesman?), take a moment to indulge in the simple things. Take long walks in your black down parka, read good books and indulge in trashy media. Trash media may be the pixie sticks of brainfood, but as long as you don't try to snort it, a little could do you some good. And, unlike the cold, it won't turn your tongue blue.



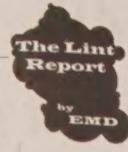
ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

YOUR tracks

Compiled by Adi Elbaz

'Tis the season to be jolly. The most wonderful time of the year. The time when all the holidays are over. Winter break is a distant memory of nights spent, well, asleep in a real bed rather than slumped over a C-level desk with your face stuck to your Orgo textbook (this is funny since I'm a Writing Sems/Anthro major). The wintry weather has lost its novelty and Christmassy appeal (this is funny since I'm a Jew) and is now just a huge pain in the (frostbitten) behind. Replace Johnny Mathis or The Levees with a more appropriate, back-to-school soundtrack, and resign yourself to the inevitable.

1. Van Halen — "Hot For Teacher"
What? Don't even pretend the thought has never crossed your mind.
2. Avenue Q Soundtrack — "I Wish I Could Go Back To College"
Apparently, we'll look back on these days fondly, or something.
3. MIA — "Paper Planes"
"All I wanna do is ... take your money." It's like the JHU anthem.
4. Schoolhouse Rock — "Conjunction Junction"
In case you forgot the rules of grammar over break. They've also got educational hits like "The Nervous System" for you sciency types.
5. Coheed and Cambria — "The Crowning"
Cause, like, Coheed and Cambria are super nerdy. And, like, so are most people here. (Yeah. I've seen them like four times. Whatever. The geeks shall inherit the earth.)
6. Bright Eyes — "First Day Of My Life"
This is the cutest song ever. It always makes me feel lukewarm inside.
7. Aquabats — "Pizza Day"
The best song about the American educational experience, ever. "Well I remember my first day of junior high/I had hair gel in my hair and my pants were way too tight."
8. Blue Oyster Cult — "This Ain't the Summer of Love"
No. No it is not. Sadly.
9. The New Pornographers — "Miss Teen Wordpower"
Sorry, I'm a Writing Sems major.
10. The Cure — "Friday I'm in Love"
Because despite all this cheery back2schoolong b.s., Fridays are definitely the best day of the week.



CARTOONS, ETC.

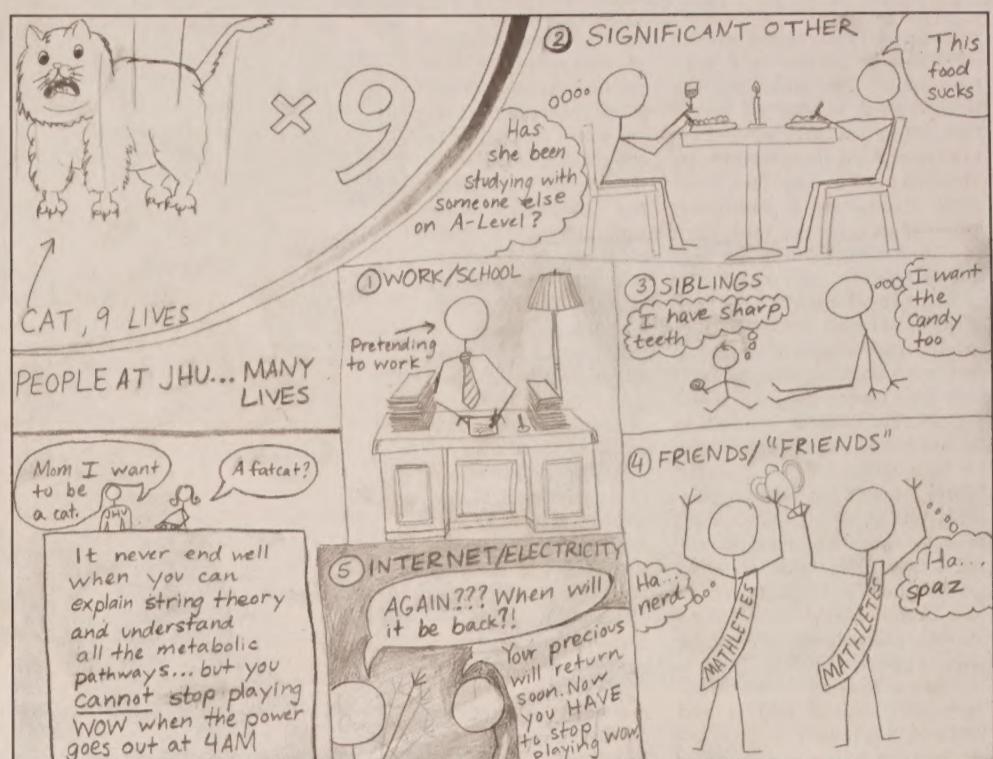


Third Person Objective

By B. G. Warner

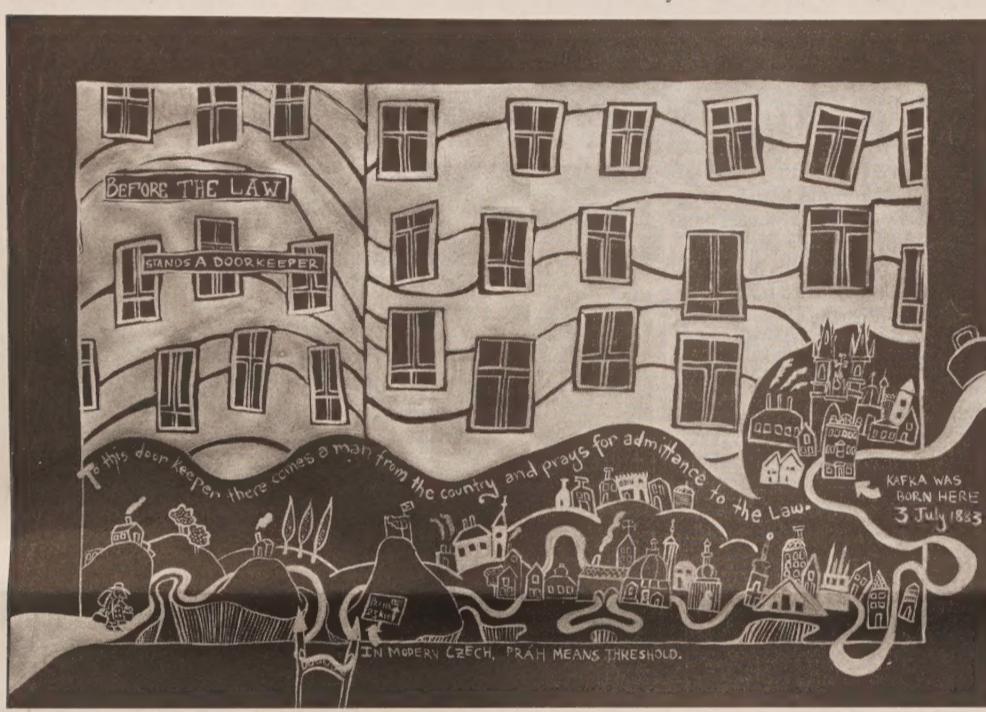
The Stranger

By Ruchee Shrestha



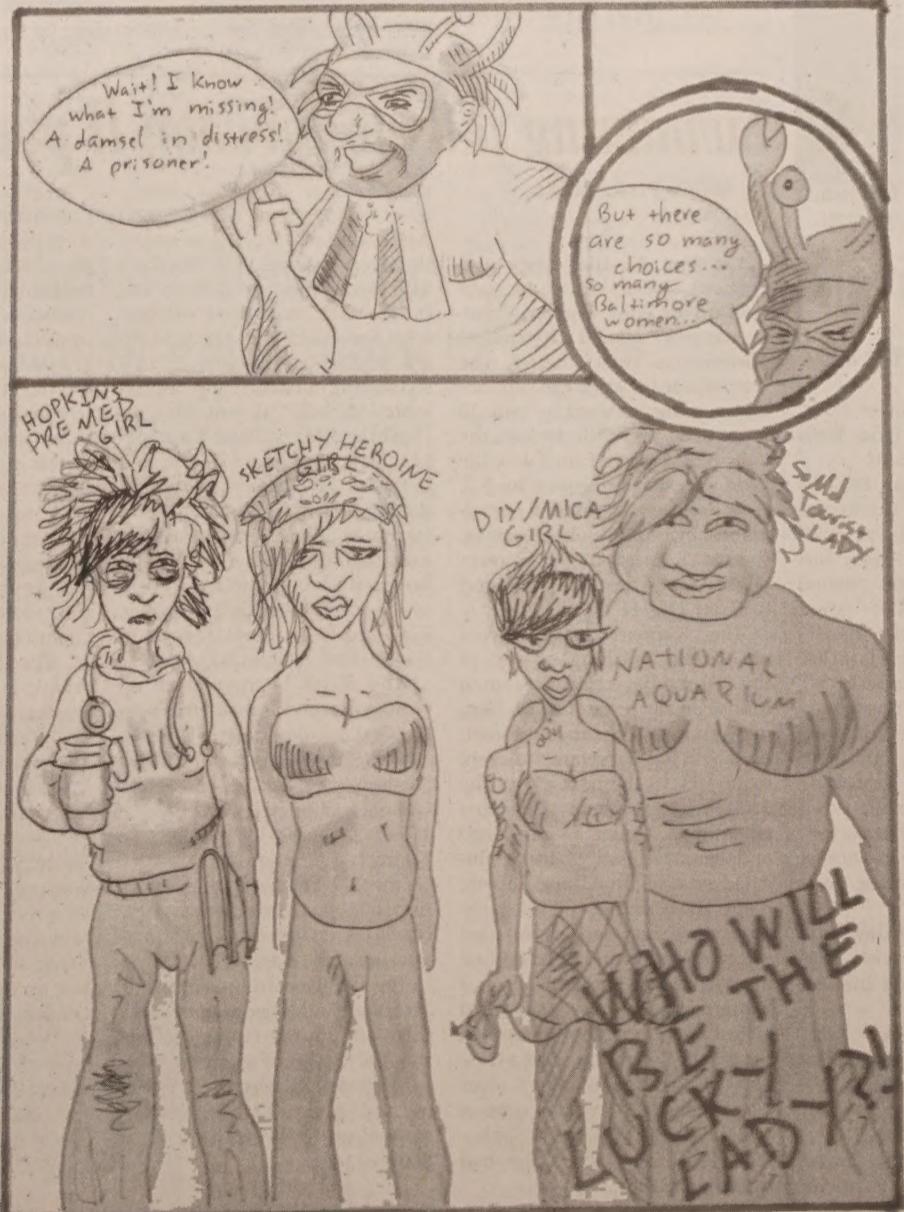
Pun Intended

By Saumya Gurbani



B.A.D.

By L. R. Greenberg



Quentin & Sam

By Jane Yee

Wombats and Bologna Bitches: a [REDACTED] exercise in censorship

I often find a night without sleep invigorating and energizing, seemingly filling myself up with the necessary glucose, carbohydrates and all other elements that I need to have a good successful energetic day... I especially feel energized after a long night of, shall we say, self gratification.

sleep tomorrow" to the amusement of the clientele.

Which brings me to the main point of the story (aside from what I'd like to do to that... lovely... young woman... eh?) which is the wonderful entertainment now available at the revamped Bologna and Bolognese, Bit [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and Infants [sic] INC [Ibid] green where you can see Ms. Wombat in person delivery her delirious readings of your favorite American Transcendentalists as well as Seamus Heaney and Eudora Welty. However, the owners would like to make it perfectly clear that they do not condone Wombat's use of The Collected Works of Leo Tolstoy or The Bowflex 5000 XL as toilet paper.

Although they would like to add that if you see a volume of Frost's work you should shove it right up [REDACTED]

The same cannot be said for the unfortunately drowsy people of South Kensington in London — a people of great esteem, social ranking, sexual appeal and just downright filthiness (in both regards if you know [REDACTED])

There, a so-called woman has been yelling for days on end, complaining about her complete and utter impotence (not a problem here if [REDACTED] what I mean) in falling asleep. She has been roaming

from one restaurant to the next complaining that they are lacking in mattresses and going from mattress store to mattress store trying to order spaghetti Bolognese; reportedly, according to her incredibly estranged ex-husband, she for as much as a month in Bologna asked for a "kartoffel salad mit einem gros y petit steak wellington mit frites" with a very dry cappuccino. Aside from obvious language barriers and excellent taste in food, Margaret Wombat has apparently not slept in what her only slightly estranged daughter described as "eight centuries a m-

[REDACTED] head reporter" in an unnecessarily hostile tone which my wife certainly didn't appreciate (but which I certainly did — that not all I'd like to [REDACTED] what I mean; she's definitely somebody I'd like to have keep me invigorated for awhile... eh?)!

Maragaret was dressed in verde Kleidung wearing a short camisole on top of a rather long camiseta when I saw her outside one local Kensington eatery screaming indignant for a [REDACTED]

damn place to lie already, I've been reading Robert Frost all day and I've got miles to go before I

Jeremy Bremer
Kierkegaard's Smile

[REDACTED] stomp it out without allowing it a break for mercy,

[REDACTED] so they [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] d keep the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] man needs to [REDACTED] Frost and Thoreau forever eh?

At the Bologna and Bolognese [REDACTED] you can experience delightful multicultural und ein bisschen confusing pero nur un petit bit, which is helpful for us Japanese speakers out there — not that I am one, but I'd like to be one for certain... privileges if you... eh? Food. And if you can wipe you [REDACTED] famous literary works while watching the mouth of a crazed incredibly drowsy woman on her search for a mattress and a good spaghetti Bolognese (two things I'd gladly give her for just one blessed night of [REDACTED] Ah... eh?)

The world's most bizarre sports championships

By ERIC GOODMAN
Sports Editor

The Super Bowl is competition at its finest. Finely-tuned athletic machines go all out in a winner-take-all showdown for the world's most prestigious sports title. While you may never play in a Super Bowl, there is still hope for some of us average Joes to become champions at something (other than a science fair). Here are some competitions you may be interested to know about:

Rock-Paper-Scissors — One of the most important games ever invented, rock-paper-scissors has numerous uses in American culture. It's a game seemingly based on luck, but is there any skill to it? Apparently somebody thinks so, because starting in 2002, the World Rock Paper Scissors Society (WRPS) standardized a set of rules and starting sponsoring competitions with monetary prizes. The USA Rock Paper Scissors League (USARPS) holds an annual tournament where the winner pockets \$50,000.

Cheese Rolling — The Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling and Wake held annually in Gloucester, England, brings in enthusiasts from around the world to participate in this 200-year-old tradition. There are five rollings during the day of the event, where a round of cheese is rolled down from the top of Cooper's Hill. Participants will then race down the hill, where the first person to reach the bottom of the hill wins the cheese. Several ambulances are always on hand, as each year there are around a dozen casualties from falling down the hill (or from the rolling cheese, which can reach speeds of up to 70 mph).

Wife Carrying — This "sport," which originated in Finland, re-

quires a male competitor to carry a female competitor either piggyback style, fireman's style (over the shoulder) or Estonian-style (see picture) through an obstacle course in the fastest time. According to the rules set by the International Wife Carrying Competition Rules Committee, the track must be 253.5 meters long and have two dry obstacles and a water obstacle. Couples are penalized by 15 seconds if the wife is dropped. Each year the world championship is in Finland, but there is an annual North American championship in Maine. Interesting note: Dennis Rodman participated in the 2005 Wife Carrying World Championship.

Shin Kicking — Kick your opponent in the shins until they can't stand up anymore. No elaboration necessary.

Extreme Ironing — The latest attraction in the "extreme" fad of the past few years, extreme ironing involves people ironing a few articles of clothing under extreme circumstances, such as on the cliff of a mountain, while riding in a canoe, while skiing or snowboarding, on top of a statue, in the middle of the street or even while parachuting.

Tug of War — Believe it or not, this used to be an Olympic sport from 1900 to 1920. The contest would be between two teams of eight, with the winning team being the first one to pull the other



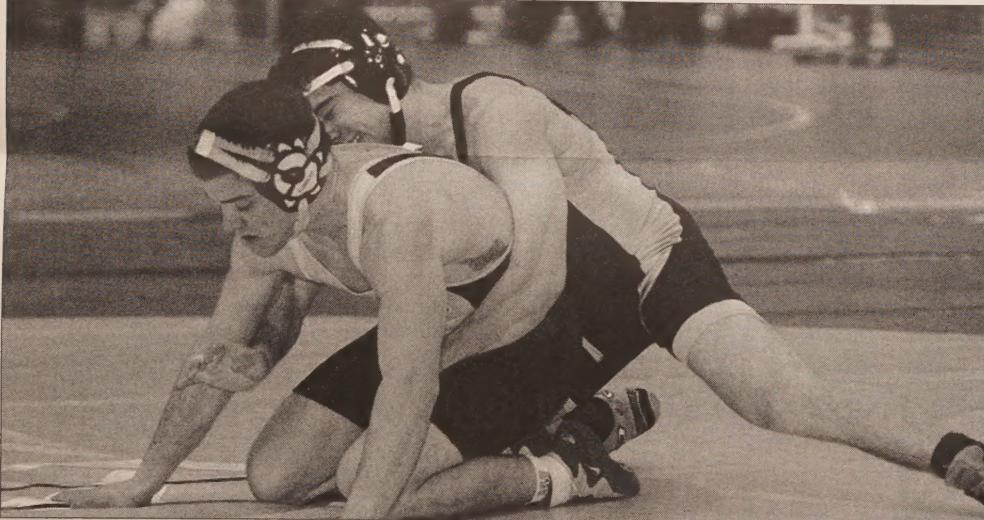
COURTESY OF ANSSI PULKINEN

team six feet. In fact, Constantine Henriquez de Zubiera, the first African to compete in and win an Olympic medal, was a member of France's 1900 tug of war team. The Tug of War International Federation (TWIF) organizes World Championships for nation teams, for both indoor and outdoor contests, and a similar competition for club teams.

Guitar Hero National Championship — The ultimate procrastination tool, Guitar Hero has rocked the minds of video gamers since it was first introduced

in 2005. Last year, Twin Galaxies and Too Many Games, two gaming companies, teamed up to host the first ever Guitar Hero National Championship. The tournament, held in Wyomissing, Penn., drew Guitar Hero players from across the country. Also in the past year, many smaller guitar hero tournaments have spawned at local bars and venues. In Baltimore, Guitar Hero competitions are held at various times throughout the year, such as at the Ottobar.

The World Series of Beer Pong — You've probably heard of the World Series and the World Series of Poker. And you've more than likely heard of beer pong. Now you can add the World Series of Beer Pong to the list. According to BPONG.com, the World Series of Beer Pong is the largest, longest-running organized beer pong (a.k.a. Beirut) tournament in the world. Last year's event drew nearly 600 participants from 39 U.S. states and three Canadian provinces, offering the largest payout in beer pong history of \$50,000. Entrants can either buy into the tournament or enter by winning one of many satellite tournaments.



COURTESY OF CARL SCHMIDT

Freshman 141-pound wrestler Rocky Barilla maintains a spiral ride during a match at the North-South dual tournament.

Wrestling goes 1-2 against Centennial rivals

The Blue Jay wrestling team was bolstered by the combination of its young and veteran talent

By MIKE SUMNER
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Blue Jay wrestling team took a trip up to Allentown, Penn. to take on division opponents Gettysburg, Ursinus and Muhlenberg — all of which have former Conference Champions and All-Americans in their lineups.

While the Jays team contains a large portion of freshmen and sophomores, they surprised many with some impressive individual victories. Although the Jays were only able to beat Gettysburg, coming within a few points of Ursinus and Muhlenberg have the Jays setting their sights on the rest of the Centennial Conference.

Up first was Ursinus, who have won the Centennial Conference Championship four times in the last five years. The Jays were slow out of the gate, dropping decisions at the 125- and 133-pound weight classes. But Rocky Barilla took one back at 141, beating his opponent by a decision of 7-1. After struggling to find a regular place his freshman year, he has recaptured his form this year and is one of the most consistent wrestlers in the Jays lineup.

The middle of the Jays' starting roster suffered some similar missteps before Eric Levenseller earned a decision at 165. The Jays took one more loss at 174 before earning three straight decisions to close out the meet. Freshman Hector Cintron continued his strong debut season at 184 before giving way to seniors Tyler

Schmidt and Matt Rugani at 197 and heavyweight respectively. But while the string of victories meant that both teams won five of the 10 matches, Ursinus took the victory on point differential 21-15.

Next, the Jays matched up against Muhlenberg. Unlike their start against Ursinus, the vivified Jays lineup came out firing against the Mules. After freshman Adams Stevens won by major decision at 125, Mike Testa upset Muhlenberg's Billy Hall at 133. Hall, a former Conference Champion at 133 and runner-up twice at both 133 and 141, couldn't intimidate Testa and the freshman toppled the senior by a score of 13-7.

Rocky Barilla and Eric Levenseller took two more individual victories at 141 and 165, but major decisions and technical falls in the weight classes between the two allowed the Mules to catch back up. Tyler Schmidt also won his second match of the day, but a pin for Muhlenberg in the heavyweight match gave the Mules the six points they needed to overtake the Jays and win the meet by a score of 22-18. Once again, the Jays split the matches, five and five, but still lost due to the extra points earned through pins and major decisions.

With two losses behind them, the crowd could feel the frustration building up in the Hopkins wrestlers. Unfortunately for Gettysburg, they still had to wrestle them. The two teams traded decisions at 125 and 133, but then the Jays took six of the next eight

This Saturday the Jays will return to Virginia to take on Washington & Lee, where the team placed third at the W&L Invitational a week ago. Unfortunately for the Generals, they will be facing a much more confident Hopkins team ready to make their run at the conference crown.

matches to win the meet 34-16, highlighted by pins from Barilla, Cintron and Schmidt.

At the end of the day, the Jays went 1-2, but despite the losses, they still remained happy with the strides that the team has made since the season opened back in November. After going 3-0 on the day, Rocky Barilla still believes that they Jays are in line to shock the conference.

"I think if we continue to stay aggressive and push the pressure in our matches, our team will have an excellent shot at the Conference title," Barilla said. "As for the dual meet season, we need to be able to get bonus team points out of major decisions and pins."

Barilla, 3-0 on the day, currently leads the team with a 23-10 record and has won his last nine straight matches.

Along with him, Tyler Schmidt and Eric Levenseller were also 3-0. "We showed that we are tough enough to beat any three of those teams," Levenseller said. "While we didn't score the points we needed to, we will get there. As a team, I thought we really opened up on Saturday. We came out aggressive and dictated the pace of the match."

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Hopkins continued its success in relay events, taking the 400

Women's basketball falls to Green Terror

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
loss. Junior guard Anastasia Wynn added 12 second half points, finishing with 14 points.

"After the close loss to McDaniel we knew it was important to come out strong against Dickinson," Burton said. "Because of some of the close games we have had, we know a lot of conference teams are very good this year, and we have to come ready to play every game."

Two days later, the Jays headed to Carlisle, Penn. to face the Dickinson Red Devils for their first of two regular season games. The Jays were off to a slow start, unable to score in the first four minutes. The drought helped Dickinson to a 30-15 lead with 4:51 to go. Strong shooting by Burton helped Hopkins narrow the deficit to nine points, but the Red Devils stormed back and headed into the locker room with a 14-point lead, 38-24.

In the second half, Burton's six consecutive points led a 9-3 Jay run to cut the lead to seven. After several minutes of back-and-forth play, the Red Devils began to pull ahead on strong free-throw shooting. In the final two minutes of play, Dickinson nailed all 10 of its free throws, going 14 out of 14 in the second half and shooting 92 percent

from the strike in the game. The Jays were unable to recover, falling 69-58.

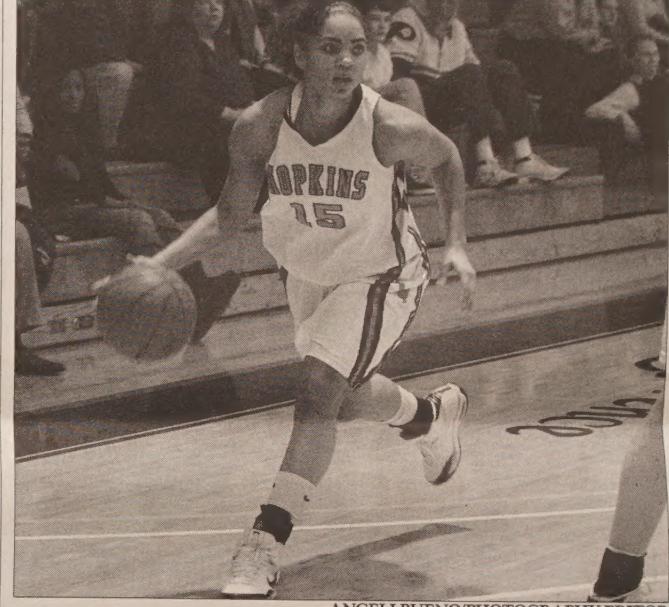
Burton was just able to continue her 20-point streak to five games, scoring 20 and adding seven rebounds. Phillips also continued her strong play with a double-double, collecting 16 points, 13 rebounds and three steals.

Hopkins now stands at a 6-10 overall record this year. Additionally, the Jays currently stand at eighth place in the Centennial Conference, where they hold a 4-5 record.

"We have an uphill battle ahead of us so we need to just take things one game at a time," Phillips said. "Anything could happen in the Conference at this point so we need to take care of things on Wednesday when we play Washington."

"We still have a lot of games left and of course the conference title is still up for grabs so there is a lot we can still accomplish," Burton said.

The Jays' next challenge comes next Wednesday as they prepare for yet another Conference game, this time hosting the Washington College Shorewomen. The game will also be the first of two regular season games between the two.



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Senior Anastasia Wynn drives to the basket during the Jays victory against Washington.

Swimming falls to Division II powerhouse

By MIKE PORAMBO
Staff Writer

On Jan. 17, the men's and women's swimming teams traveled up to West Chester, Penn. to compete against Division II powerhouse West Chester. The women's team swam exceptionally, coming up short by only 10 points, 184-174. With the loss, the lady Blue Jays fall to 3-4 while West Chester improves to 5-0. And despite a dominant performance by junior John Thomas, the men's swimming (2-5) team fell to West Chester 221-137, and to TCNJ 206-144.

The women's team started off strong, finishing second in the 200 medley relay. Freshman Lindsey Kent, junior Caitlin Dennis, junior Lisa Qu and freshman Elizabeth Rogers swam the event in 1:50.30. In the next event, the 200 Free, freshman Kristine Ghemigian, senior Megan Zapp and senior Elissa Stautner finished second, third and fourth, respectively. In the 400 IM freshman Margaret Spach dominated the competition and finished first by nearly three seconds. Senior Sarah Andryauskas set the third fastest time in school history in the 100 Fly, winning with a time of 57.13. Freshman Heidi Culver also finished first with a time of 5:08.51 in the 500 Free. Sophomore Kathleen Heslin finished third in 5:21.00.

Junior Katie Vance, senior Jackie Rooney, Ghemigian and Rogers took second in the 200 Free Relay in 1:40.49. The Jays dominated the 100 Breast, with freshman Annie Tsay and Dennis finishing first and second, with times of 1:06.56 and 1:07.08, respectively. Culver, Zapp, Rogers and Ghemigian added another win, this time taking the 800 Freestyle relay in 7:47.81. Culver added another win in the 1650 Free in 18:09.43.

Hopkins continued its success in relay events, taking the 400

medley relay in 7:47.81. Freshman Tiffany Tembreull, Dennis, Andryauskas and Rogers swam the event for the Jays. Hopkins took second, third and fourth in the 200 individual medley, with Spach (2:10.52), Qu (2:14.35) and senior Kate Hansen (2:20.10) swimming outstandingly. Sophomores Michele Palopoli, Meagan Heslin and MaryClaire Kozlowski took second, third and fourth in the 200 Fly. Rogers took first in the 100 Free in 53.58. Dennis and Bresnahan took first and second in the 200 Breast stroke. In the final event of the meet, Ghemigian, Culver, Tsay and Rogers took second in the 400 Free relay in 3:37.36.

The men's team opened up with a second place finish in the 200 medley relay. Thomas, seniors John Kegelman and Bob Sershon and freshman Nicolas Gimenez came in with a time of 1:37.42. In the 400 IM senior Colin Kleinguetl took second in 4:10.94. In the 100 Fly, Sershon was the first to touch the wall with a time of 52.58. Afterwards, Thomas won his first event with a 51.80 in the 100 Backstroke. Freshman Tim Nam and Kegelman finished third and fourth, respectively, in the 100 Breast. Freshman Daniel Raynard, Kleinguetl, Thomas and senior David Postetter teamed up to finish third in the 800 free relay.

"For this part of the season we swam well. We're well on our way to swimming our best at our championship meet," sophomore Jon Pool said.

The women's team feels the same way.

"We had just come from a training trip, followed by another two weeks of tough training," Dennis, who was named Bluegrass Mountain Conference Swimmer of the Week, said. "For the times that we put up against West Chester, we considered it a victory. A lot of us had personal bests."

Both the men's and women's teams dive back into the pool on Saturday to race Washington & Lee at the Newton White Athletic Center.



FILE PHOTO

A Hopkins breaststroke swimmer competing in a meet from last year's season.

Top 5 reasons to miss the big game

You may be tempted to join the masses and watch Super Bowl XVIII this Sunday night. Don't.

By DEMIAN KENDALL
Sports Editor

I don't think that I'm alone when I say that this year, the Super Bowl sucks. And I'm not saying that because I'm still bitter about the trifecta tragedy of the Patriots losing last year's championship, Tom Brady going down in week one and the 11-5 Patriots not making the playoffs (I've made peace with the fact that this will haunt me for the rest of my natural life.)

So instead of bitching and moaning about what I consider the number one sports-related tragedy of my lifetime, I'll simply give you the top five reasons that you shouldn't watch Super Bowl XLIII.

5) It will be a blowout. Don't listen to all the commentators and speculators who say that Arizona has a fighting chance to win it all this year. They marvel over Kurt Warner's playoff prowess and Larry Fitzgerald's animal speed, but it's all a façade to make it seem like the game will still be interesting.

The Cardinals offense may have proven themselves in the playoffs, but they're no match for the number one defense in the NFL. To quote the famous line that you will inevitably hear at least five times during the big game, "Offense wins games; defense wins championships." As much as it pains me to do so, take a look at last year's game between the Patriots and the Giants. The Patriots lost because of the pressure Tom Brady received from New York's incredible defensive line, a fact which proves that a team can have the best quarterback or receiving corps in the league, but if they're not given the time to get into their rhythm and make plays happen, then they become useless.

4) You will be forced to watch famous underdog stories, which will only get your hopes up. You wouldn't expect the National Football League to have much interest in old fairy tales, but the

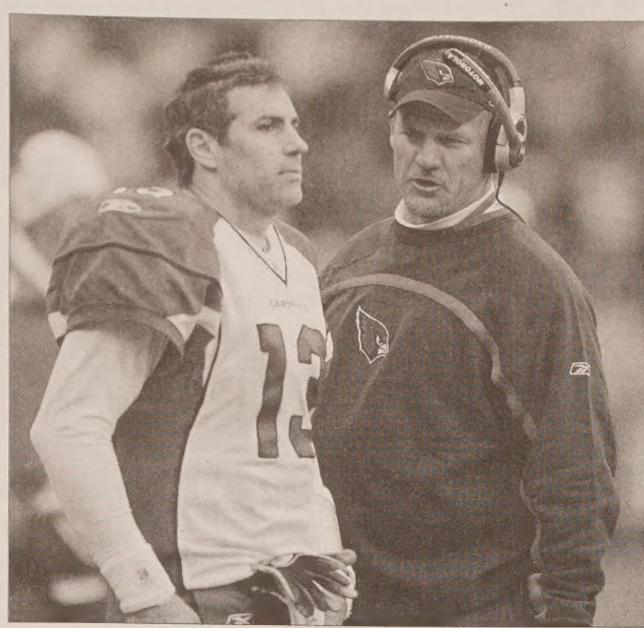
organization has developed a strange love affair with the "Cinderella story" (another phrase you will hear countless times on Sunday). While it is true that everyone loves a good tale of an underdog coming out on top, no one likes getting in that underdog spirit only to see the team driven into the ground.

3) You will have to hear about the back story of the NFL's favorite Cinderella, Kurt Warner, again. If you have followed profes-

now, but should he suffer so much as a strained pinky between now and Sunday, you're going to hear about it.

1) No matter where you end up watching the game, you will inevitably share a couch with at least one Steelers fan and his "terrible towel." If I were to rank the top five most annoying NFL fans, Steelers supporters would come in at a close third (Sorry, but there's no one on the entire planet worse than a Giants or Eagles fan.) With Super Bowl XVIII, there's a very real, very scary possibility that Pitt fans may move up in those ranks.

Pittsburgh is currently tied with the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas Cowboys for the most Super Bowl victories of all time with five. This means that if Big Ben pulls off the Big Win, the Steelers will technically be the greatest franchise in NFL history. This is scary stuff. If this happens, lock your doors, shut your blinds and try to block out the noise of thousands of drunken maniacs flooding the streets, waving their terrible towels and reveling in their victory. Just to be safe, I wouldn't leave the room for about a week. On a side note, in my lifetime, I've actually never met a Cardinals fan. I'm not fully convinced that they actually exist. However, if the Cards pull off a miracle, I'm sure you'll see (and hear) them plenty.



COURTESY OF NFL.COM

Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner talks with head coach Ken Whisenhunt.

sional football with even the most remote interest, then you've heard Kurt Warner's story. They've talked about it during his two previous Super Bowl appearances, during a few commercials and any other time he does something notable. We get it. We know that after getting cut from the Green Bay Packers' training camp, he ended up bagging groceries at a Hy-Vee in Iowa, followed by Arena Football, followed by NFL Europe, followed by a Super Bowl victory. It's old news, yet I imagine that with today's job market the way it is, the NFL will consider his story to be that much more inspirational. At least there's hope for all those recent college graduates asking, "Would you like fries with that?"

2) Ben Roethlisberger will be depicted as the toughest man alive. I guess it is hard not to admire Big Ben. The man came back from a vicious motorcycle accident and stepped on the field the next season. He always seems to be injured somehow, but manages to pull it together for game day. He seems to be okay as of

this happens, lock your doors, shut your blinds and try to block out the noise of thousands of drunken maniacs flooding the streets, waving their terrible towels and reveling in their victory. Just to be safe, I wouldn't leave the room for about a week. On a side note, in my lifetime, I've actually never met a Cardinals fan. I'm not fully convinced that they actually exist. However, if the Cards pull off a miracle, I'm sure you'll see (and hear) them plenty.

W. track relay team qualifies for nationals

CONTINUED FROM B12

Freshman Alison Smith came behind Osborn in both dashes, running 8.38 and 23.87, both ranked in the Centennial Conference's top 10 performances of the year.

The men's team also had strong individual performances at the meet. Sophomore Ryan Lino set a personal record and Centennial Conference-best mark in the shot put, throwing 46 feet 10.25 inches.

"I had a good day with my PR, but can't wait to throw this Saturday with Peter Li (fellow Hopkins shotputter and the school record holder in the indoor shot, who had a conflict last week)," Lino said. "Peter is a great role model and hopefully we can really unlock each other's potential with a little friendly competition. The team is really improving each week, making a shot at a Conference Championship in reach for both the guys and girls."

Sophomore Elliot Wehner came in eighth place out of 42 in the 800m with a time of 2:00.23. In the 3,000m, junior Geoff Nunn ran a 9:16.16, coming in 15th out of 33.

"I raced well, but did not really hit the time I was looking for. The race went out slow, and I didn't find a groove until the third lap. I started passing other runners and finally hunted down the last guy at the beginning of the home stretch to win my heat," Wehner said. "Coach Van Allen noted that we have to improve our times before conferences but was happy with how we competed."

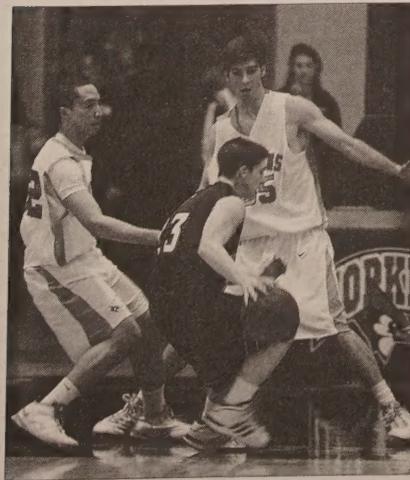
The Jays are back on the road to take on Ursinus on Saturday. With so many recent away games, the Jays have one advantage when it comes to the hard final stretch of the season — four of their last five games will take place in the comfort of their own gym. Coach Nelson believes that student support could be a good advantage.

"We will be in the middle of a playoff berth," he said. "It would be great to take advantage of being at home. Our gym gets very loud and it would be great for the team to get the student support for the last few weeks."

Blue Jays finish stretch in fourth place in conference

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12

from the floor. Henrici, who transferred from Gettysburg this year, recorded a career-high 15 points against his former teammates. Farber-Miller was good for 13, and Kamm and Beggans each posted 10 apiece. The Jays also led with rebounds 30-28 and held the lead well into the first half. But with Gettysburg shoot-



DANIEL LITWIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leland O'Connor and Mike Henrici try to get a steal.

ing 56 percent from the floor and 66 percent from the charity stripe, the lead was always just out of reach for the Jays.

"We only have a couple of weeks left, and every game is important to us," Farber-Miller said. "We had a few lapses, but for the most part we showed we can play with the best of them. We just need to put two good halves together, and there's no telling how far we will go."

"We will be in the middle of a playoff berth," he said. "It would be great to take advantage of being at home. Our gym gets very loud and it would be great for the team to get the student support for the last few weeks."

Hopkins returns to action in two weeks at the Patriot Games, hosted by George Mason.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

LYNDSAY BURTON - WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Burton shoots hoops team to glory

By MARY DOMAN
Staff Writer

Burton had to make do with human teammates.

"I like the girls on the team a lot," she said. "We're all great friends." It was the team, in fact, that played a major role in Burton's decision to come to Hopkins. "I had never really thought about playing in college. When I visited, I loved the girls."

Her fellow Jays love her, too. "On

and off the court,

Lyndsay is unselfish

and would do anything to help her teammates," junior guard Steph Kielb said.

When she's not sitting high on her horse, then, it seems like Burton loves to interact and spend time with the people she loves.

A middle child of four, she has learned to negotiate and communicate well, and it shows. She has chosen International Relations as her major and talks to her mom on the phone every day.

Let's not forget, though, that Burton doesn't just play HORSE. At the collegiate level, an athlete has to be more than a little competitive to survive. "She's reserved off the court, but once she steps on the hardwood, she is fierce," Kielb commented. Burton took a slightly different stance. "I don't show much emotion on the court," Burton said. "I'm not very loud."

Burton's success on the court hasn't been without plenty of struggle. Let's embrace the pun, shall we? She's fallen off the horse plenty of times. She's broken fingers, torn her ACL and damaged ligaments in her knees. But she always gets back up. "Lyndsay works harder than any-



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Sophomore Lyndsay Burton is the Jays' leading scorer.

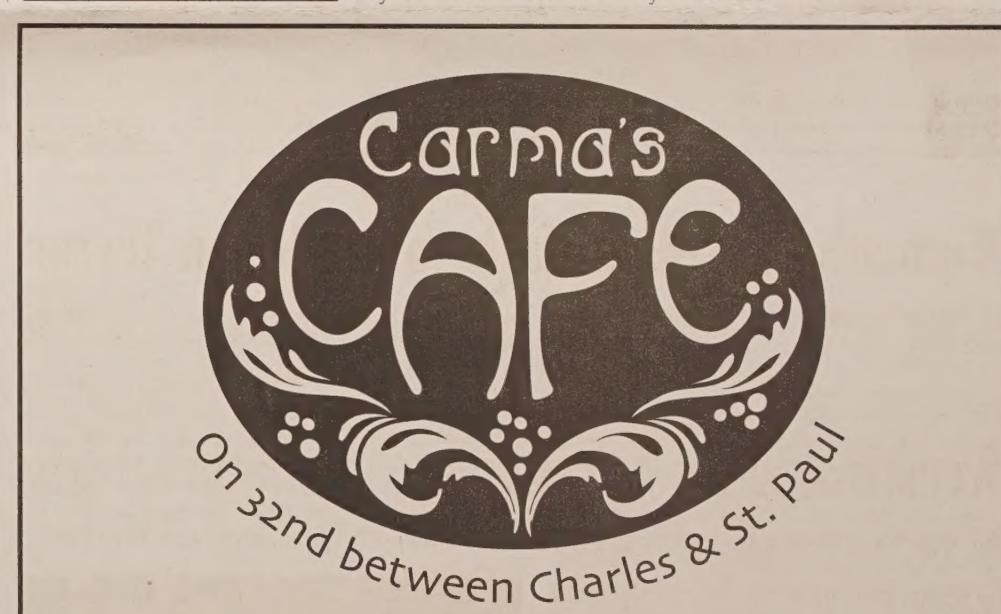
VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Sophomore

Major: International Rel.

Hopkins Highlights:

Scored 20 or more points in five consecutive games. Named Centennial Conference player of the week on Jan. 19.



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SPORTS

M. basketball still gunning for playoff berth

By KAT BASELICE
Staff Writer

Playing a majority of your games over the span of reading period and intersession is not ideal for any team. Playing most of it on the road makes it that much harder. When looking at their upcoming schedule back in November, the men's basketball team realized that playing on their home court amid a crowd of their friends would be a luxury they would seldom have. Regardless, the team took to the court and, despite a loss this past Monday to Gettysburg, remains in contention for a spot in the fast-approaching Centennial Conference playoffs.

The Jays started off the new year at Disney's Wide World of Sports in pursuit of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Holiday Classic Title. After winning their first round game against Roger Williams, the team moved on to defeat Penn State Altoona for the title, shooting 64.9 percent from the floor while holding the Lions to a mere 33 percent for a 75-45 victory. Junior forward Andrew Farber-Miller, who shot 75 percent from the field and averaged 15.5 points and eight rebounds a game, earned Tournament MVP honors. Shortly after he was also named the PrestoSports/Provident Pride Player of the Week in recognition of his contribution to the Jays' wins over Roger Williams and Penn State Altoona.

After returning from Florida, the Jays lost junior forward Adam Baumgartner to a hand injury. Prior to the injury, Baumgartner had ranked sixth in the Centennial Conference in blocked shots. With the loss of one of their tallest guards, Hopkins was forced to switch to a more fast-paced offense. The Jays adjusted and were able to continue their winning

Final
Dickinson 58
Hopkins 62

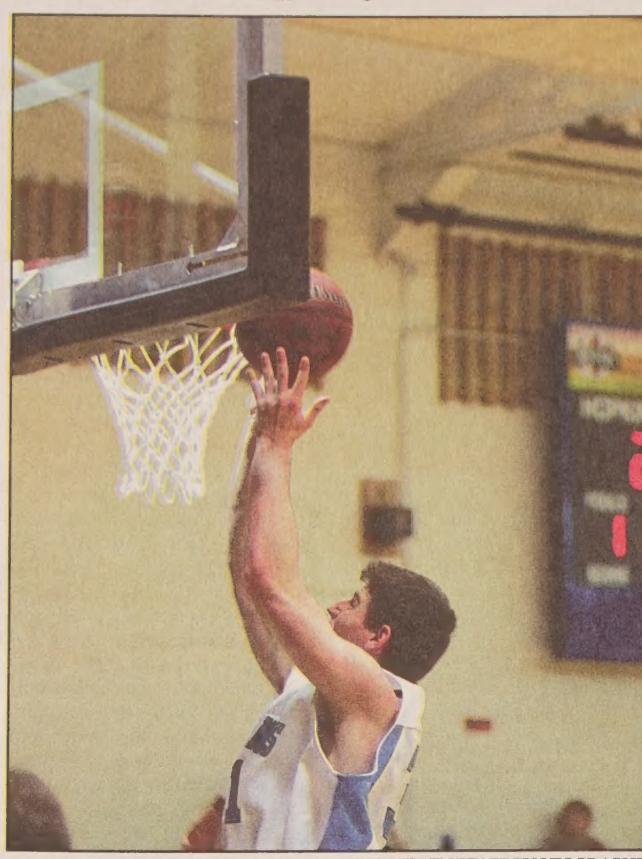
streak for three more games until they fell to Muhlenberg 64-57. With a win against Swarthmore and a loss to McDaniel, Hopkins went into this weekend's game in fourth place in Centennial Conference standings, behind Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg and McDaniel, all tied for first.

On Saturday, Hopkins headed up to Carlisle, Penn. to take on Dickinson's Red Devils. The first half saw five lead changes and two ties, with neither team maintaining momentum. Going into the half, freshman guard Sean O'Connor grabbed a 27-26 lead for Hopkins after sinking a basket with 58 seconds on the clock.

The back-and-forth action continued well into the second half, with neither team holding a lead by more than eight points at a time. Senior guard Collin Kamm led off a Jays 12-4 run with 16:42 left on the clock. Dickinson rallied back, going 13 for Hopkins's four, to take a two-point lead. Senior guard Scott Weisenfeld nailed a layup to tie it with 7:06 remaining, and senior forward Phil Beggans followed up with a triple to capture the lead for good. The final buzzer sealed the 62-58 win for the Jays.

Fouls plagued Hopkins throughout the game, and despite poor shooting from the floor Dickinson was able to capitalize on free throw opportunities to keep the game close. Farber-Miller and sophomore forward Mike Henrici were both good for 14 points from the field and were complemented by four steals and six assists from Weisenfeld.

With a record of 7-3 on the road, the Jays made their way to Gettysburg, a court that had not seen a Bullet loss for 17 straight games. Hopkins made 10 of 15 from the start as they made their way to a 22-12 lead. However, Gettysburg's Kevin Kennedy started off a Gettysburg rally,



DANIEL LITWIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Andrew Farber-Miller was named the MVP of the ECAC Holiday Classic.

and the Bullets posted 17 unanswered points to regain the lead. Trailing by 11 going into the half, it was now the Jays' turn to chase the lead. With 14:10 left on the clock, Farber-Miller led Hopkins with nine points in a 13-4 run. Gettysburg answered from the free throw line, sinking seven of their 10 attempts to keep the game out of Hopkins's reach. The final buzzer sounded with the Jays still trailing by nine.

"Our strategy with them was to play a really good game," Baumgartner said. "We were hoping to minimize turnovers and hoping to catch them off guard.

They lost to Haverford, a team they should have beaten. Haverford came out really strong. We did the same thing. That's what we were hoping to do, to come out swinging. Gettysburg got back, found their footing, and were off to the races."

Despite the loss, Hopkins posted impressive numbers

CONTINUED ON PAGE B11

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Women's basketball falls to the Green Terror

By MIKE YUAN
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team had a busy intersession, competing in nine games and compiling a 5-4 record for the month of January. The Lady Jays rang in the new year by competing in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) basketball tournament held in Orlando, Fla. where they lost in the first round to Gwynedd-Mercy but defeated Goucher in the second round. The Jays then used the momentum of the win to propel themselves to a three-game winning streak, defeating Ursinus, Bryn Mawr and Gettysburg. Muhlenberg was able to snap the streak, but Hopkins bounced back by defeating Swarthmore at home.

Most recently, the Jays fell just short in Conference matchups to McDaniel and Dickinson.

Last Thursday, the Green Terror hosted the Jays for their first and only regular season meeting this season. "Whenever we play McDaniel it's always close, so we knew we needed to take care of things on the defensive end of the court," senior forward Kristin Phillips said. "We focused on stopping the drive and getting back on transition."

After exchanging leads twice,

Final
McDaniel 67
Hopkins 60

McDaniel finished off the first half with the upper hand, leading 37-30. Things did not look better at the start of the second half, as the Green Terror went on an 8-2 run and eventually built up a 16-point lead with 13:21 to play.

At 12:11, Phillips and junior guard Steph Kielb began a comeback with a three-pointer and a 10-footer,

respectively. Phillips later nailed another three-pointer,

while sophomore forward Lyndsay Burton cut the lead to eight.

Following a McDaniel run, Hopkins's rebounding and intimidating defense led to turnovers and second chance opportunities, allowing the Jays to storm back on a 12-2 run, setting the score at 67-60 with less than a minute to go. However, the

Jays missed two shots in the final 15 seconds, leading to the narrow loss.

Burton finished with her fourth straight 20-point performance as she put up 23 points and five rebounds for Hopkins. Phillips added 16 points, nine rebounds, and four steals in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10



DANIEL LITWIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wide World of Bizarre: Most Unusual Sports

From cheese rolling to shin kicking to the World Series of Beer Pong, sports editor Eric Goodman has researched some of the world's most bizarre sporting events. Page B10.

INSIDE

Wrestling: Centennial Showdown

The Hopkins wrestling team faced off against three Centennial Conference opponents (Muhlenberg, Gettysburg, Ursinus) this weekend, pulling out a victory over the Bullets. Page B10.

Super Bowl XVIII: What to Expect

Sports Editor Demian Kendall gives his top five reasons why you shouldn't watch Super Bowl XVIII. If you're a Pittsburgh Steelers or Arizona Cardinals fan, Read with caution. Page B11.

DID YOU KNOW?

Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald's father, Larry Fitzgerald Sr. is a reporter for a Minneapolis-based African-American weekly publication. Super Bowl XVIII will be Larry Sr.'s 29th, but this one will be a little bit more special as he watches his son compete in his life-long dream.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

Swimming vs. Wash. & Lee 11 a.m.

TUESDAY

W. Basketball vs. Dickinson 7 p.m.

W. track relay team qualifies for nationals

By TRISTAN MOHABIR
Staff Writer

The Hopkins women's and men's track teams put up a strong showing Saturday at the Terrapin Invite, performing very well against its Division I competition. The distance medley group did particularly well, securing an NCAA provisional qualifying time in just the third meet of the season.

The medley relay team, consisting of Rachel Hogen (3:46 — 1200m leg), Paula Osborn (62 sec — 400m leg), Jordan Ireton (2:19 — 800m leg) and Lara Paulsen (5:06 — 1600m leg) finished with a time of 12:14.57, which was good for third place and was also enough to qualify provisionally for the NCAA championships.

"The girls looked great for a meet so early in the season, and I hope they all feel motivated to keep working hard like they've been doing for a while now. I'm excited to see what we can do as the season progresses," Ireton said. "Personally, it was a great feeling to see that our distance medley relay team qualified for nationals and also ran a school-record time. All four of us ran very hard, and when it all comes together like that, and with plenty of room for improvement, it's

I'm excited to see what we can do as the season progresses.

SENIOR MID-DISTANCE RUNNER JORDAN IRETON

Hogen coming in just behind her at 10:31.

Sophomore Anita Mikkilineni broke her own school record in the women's 50m hurdles with a time of 9.76, qualifying for the finals in the process. Senior Emma Hiza ran a personal record in the mile with a time of 5:23, good for second in her heat. Following the lead of Mikkilineni, Osborn broke her school record twice in the 60m dash. During trials, she ran an 8.07 before besting that time by .03 in the finals with a time of 8.04, good for 14th place. She was also 15th in the 200m dash with a time of 27.04.

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